



# City of Scottsdale



## *Scottsdale Revised City Code, Appendix C Transaction Privilege & Use Tax Code*

**July 2008**

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# PRIVILEGE AND EXCISE TAXES

## Article I - General Conditions and Definitions

### **Sec. 1. Words of tense, number and gender; code references.**

- (a) For the purposes of this Chapter, all words of tense, number, and gender shall comply with A.R.S. Section 1-214 as amended.
- (b) For the purposes of this Chapter, all code references, unless specified otherwise, shall:
  - (1) Refer to this City Code.
  - (2) Be deemed to include all amendments to such code references.

### **Sec. 100. General definitions.**

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

"Assembler" means a person who unites or combines products, wares, or articles of manufacture so as to produce a change in form or substance of such items without changing or altering component parts.

"Broker" means any person engaged or continuing in business who acts for another for a consideration in the conduct of a business activity taxable under this Chapter, and who receives for his principal all or part of the gross income from the taxable activity.

"Business" means all activities or acts, personal or corporate, engaged in and caused to be engaged in with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage, either direct or indirect, but not casual activities or sales.

"Business Day" means any day of the week when the Tax Collector's office is open for the public to conduct the Tax Collector's business.

"Casual Activity or Sale" means a transaction of an isolated nature made by a person who neither represents himself to be nor is engaged in a business subject to a tax imposed by this Chapter. However, no sale, rental, license for use, or lease transaction concerning real property nor any activity entered into by a business taxable by this Chapter shall be treated, or be exempt, as casual. This definition shall include sales of used capital assets, provided that the volume and frequency of such sales do not indicate that the seller regularly engages in selling such property.

"Combined Taxes" means the sum of all applicable Arizona Transaction Privilege and Use Taxes; all applicable transportation taxes imposed upon gross income by this County as authorized by Chapter 6 Article 3, Title 42, Arizona Revised Statutes; and all applicable taxes imposed by this Chapter.

"Commercial Property" is any real property, or portion of such property, used for any purpose other than lodging or lodging space, including structures built for lodging but used otherwise, such as model homes, apartments used as offices, etc.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

"Communications Channel" means any line, wire, cable, microwave, radio signal, light beam, telephone, telegraph, or any other electromagnetic means of moving a message.

"Construction Contracting" refers to the activity of a construction contractor.

"Construction Contractor" means a person who undertakes to or offers to undertake to, or purports to have the capacity to undertake to, or submits a bid to, or does himself or by or through others, construct, alter, repair, add to, subtract from, improve, move, wreck, or demolish any building, highway, road, railroad, excavation, or other structure, project, development, or improvement to real property, or to do any part thereof. "Construction contractor" includes subcontractors, specialty contractors, prime contractors, and any person receiving consideration for the general supervision and/or coordination of such a construction project except for remediation contracting<sup>2</sup>. This definition shall govern without regard to whether or not the construction contractor is acting in fulfillment of a contract.

"Delivery (of Notice) by the Tax Collector" means "receipt (of notice) by the taxpayer".

"Delivery, Installation, or Other Direct Customer Services" means services or labor, excluding repair labor, provided by a taxpayer to or for his customer at the time of transfer of tangible personal property; provided further that the charge for such labor or service is separately billed to the customer and maintained separately in the taxpayer's books and records.

"Engaging", when used with reference to engaging or continuing in business, includes the exercise of corporate or franchise powers.

"Equivalent Excise Tax" means either:

- (1) A Privilege or Use Tax levied by another Arizona municipality upon the transaction in question, and paid either to such Arizona municipality directly or to the vendor; or
- (2) An excise tax levied by a political subdivision of a state other than Arizona upon the transaction in question, and paid either to such jurisdiction directly or to the vendor; or
- (3) An excise tax levied by a Native American Government organized under the laws of the Federal Government upon the transaction in question, and paid either to such jurisdiction directly or to the vendor.<sup>3</sup>

"Federal Government" means the United States Government, its departments and agencies; but not including national banks or federally chartered or insured banks, savings and loan institutions, or credit unions.

"Food" means any items intended for human consumption as defined by rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Revenue, State of Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. Section 42-5106. Under no circumstances shall "food" include alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or food items purchased for use in conversion to any form of alcohol by distillation, fermentation, brewing, or other process.

"Hotel" means any public or private hotel, inn, hostelry, tourist home, house, motel, rooming house, apartment house, trailer, or other lodging place within the City offering lodging, wherein the owner thereof, for compensation, furnishes lodging to any transient, except foster homes, rest homes, sheltered care homes, nursing homes, or primary health care facilities.

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<sup>2</sup> Amended Ordinance 3091 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

<sup>3</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995



"Jet Fuel" means jet fuel as defined in A.R.S. Section 42-5351.

"Job Printing" means the activity of copying or reproducing an article by any means, process, or method. "Job printing" includes engraving of printing plates, embossing, copying, micrographics, and photo reproduction.

"Lessee" includes the equivalent person in a rental or licensing agreement for all purposes of this Chapter.

"Lessor" includes the equivalent person in a rental or licensing agreement for all purposes of this Chapter.

"Licensing (for Use)" means any agreement between the user ("licensee") and the owner or the owner's agent ("licensor") for the use of the licensor's property whereby the licensor receives consideration, where such agreement does not qualify as a "sale" or "lease" or "rental" agreement.

"Lodging (Lodging Space)" means any room or apartment in a hotel or any other provider of rooms, trailer spaces, or other residential dwelling spaces; or the furnishings or services and accommodations accompanying the use and possession of said dwelling space, including storage or parking space for the property of said tenant.

"Manufactured Building" means a manufactured home, mobile home or factory built building, as defined in A.R.S. Section 41-2142.<sup>4</sup>

"Manufacturer" means a person engaged or continuing in the business of fabricating, producing, or manufacturing products, wares, or articles for use from other forms of tangible personal property, imparting to such new forms, qualities, properties, and combinations.

"Mining and Metallurgical Supplies" means all tangible personal property acquired by persons engaged in activities defined in Section 432 for such use. This definition shall not include:<sup>5</sup>

- (1) Janitorial equipment and supplies.
- (2) Office equipment, office furniture, and office supplies.
- (3) Motor vehicles licensed for use upon the highways of the State.

"Modifier" means a person who reworks, changes, or adds to products, wares, or articles of manufacture.

"Non-profit Entity" means any entity organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, or operated by the Federal Government, the State, or any political subdivision of the State.

"Occupancy (of Real Property)" means any occupancy or use, or any right to occupy or use, real property including any improvements, rights, or interests in such property.

"Out-of-City Sale" means the sale of tangible personal property and job printing if all of the following occur:

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<sup>4</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>5</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

- (1) Transference of title and possession occur without the City; and
- (2) The stock from which such personal property was taken was not within the corporate limits of the City; and
- (3) The order is received at a permanent business location of the seller located outside the City; which location is used for the substantial and regular conduct of such business sales activity. In no event shall the place of business of the buyer be determinative of the situs of the receipt of the order.

For the purpose of this definition it does not matter that all other indicia of business occur within the City, including, but not limited to, accounting, invoicing, payments, centralized purchasing, and supply to out-of-City storehouses and out-of-City retail branch outlets from a primary storehouse within the City.

"Out-of-State Sale" means the sale of tangible personal property and job printing if all of the following occur: <sup>6</sup>

- (1) The order is placed from without the State of Arizona; and
- (2) The property is delivered to the buyer at a location outside the State; and
- (3) The property is purchased for use outside the State.

"Owner-Builder" means an owner or lessor of real property who, by himself or by or through others, constructs or has constructed or reconstructs or has reconstructed any improvement to real property.

"Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, syndicate, broker, the Federal Government, this State, or any political subdivision or agency of this State. For the purposes of this Chapter, a person shall be considered a distinct and separate person from any general or limited partnership or joint venture or other association with which such person is affiliated. A subsidiary corporation shall be considered a separate person from its parent corporation for purposes of taxation of transactions with its parent corporation. <sup>7</sup>

"Prosthetic" means any of the following tangible personal property if such items are prescribed or recommended by a licensed podiatrist, chiropractor, dentist, physician or surgeon, naturopath, optometrist, osteopathic physician or surgeon, psychologist, hearing aid dispenser, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or veterinarian:<sup>8</sup>

- (1) Any man-made device for support or replacement of a part of the body, or to increase acuity of one of the senses. Such items include: prescription eyeglasses; contact lenses; hearing aids; artificial limbs or teeth; neck, back, arm, leg, or similar braces.
- (2) Insulin, insulin syringes, and glucose test strips sold with or without a prescription.<sup>9</sup>
- (3) Hospital beds, crutches, wheelchairs, similar home health aids, or corrective

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<sup>6</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

<sup>7</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>8</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>9</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

shoes.

- (4) Drugs or medicine, including oxygen.
- (5) Equipment used to generate, monitor, or provide health support systems, such as respiratory equipment, oxygen concentrator, dialysis machine.
- (6) Durable medical equipment which has a federal health care financing administration common procedure code, is designated reimbursable by Medicare, can withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, is generally not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury and is appropriate for use in the home.<sup>10</sup>

“Qualifying Community Health Center”:<sup>11</sup>

(1) Means an entity that is recognized as non-profit under 501(C)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, that is a community-based, primary care clinic that has a community-based board of directors and that is either:

- (a) The sole provider of primary care in the community.
- (b) A non-hospital affiliated clinic that is located in a federally designated medically underserved area in this state.<sup>12</sup>

(2) Includes clinics that are being constructed as qualifying community health centers.<sup>13</sup>

“Qualifying Health Care Organization” means an entity that is recognized as non-profit under Section 501(C) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and that uses, saves or invests at least eighty per cent (80%) of all monies that it receives from all sources each year only for health and medical related educational and charitable services, as documented by annual financial audits prepared by an independent certified public accountant, performed according to generally accepted accounting standards and filed annually with the Arizona Department of Revenue. Monies that are used, saved or invested to lease, purchase or construct a facility for health and medical related education and charitable services are included in the eighty percent (80%) requirement.<sup>14</sup>

“Qualifying Hospital” means:

- (1) A licensed hospital which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.
- (2) A licensed nursing care institution or a licensed residential care institution or a residential care facility operated in conjunction with a licensed nursing care institution or a licensed kidney dialysis center, which provides medical services, nursing services or health related services and is not used or held for profit.
- (3) A hospital, nursing care institution or residential care institution which is operated by the federal government, this state or a political subdivision of this

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<sup>10</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>11</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>12</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>13</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

<sup>14</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

state.<sup>15</sup>

- (4) A facility that is under construction and that on completion will be a facility under subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this paragraph.<sup>16</sup>

"Receipt (of Notice) by the Taxpayer" means the earlier of actual receipt or the first attempted delivery by certified United States mail to the taxpayer's address of record with the Tax Collector.

"Remediation" means those actions that are reasonable, necessary, cost-effective and technically feasible in the event of the release or threat of release of hazardous substances into the environment such that the waters of the state are or may be affected, such actions as may be necessary to monitor, assess and evaluate such release or threat of release, actions of remediation, removal or disposal of hazardous substances or taking such other actions as may be necessary to prevent, minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare or to the waters of the state which may otherwise result from a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that will or may affect the waters of the state. Remediation activities include the use of biostimulation with indigenous microbes and bioaugmentation using microbes that are nonpathogenic, nonopportunistic and that are naturally occurring. Remediation activities may include community information and participation costs and providing an alternative drinking water supply.<sup>17</sup>

"Rental Equipment" means tangible personal property sold, rented, leased, or licensed to customers to the extent that the item is actually used by the customer for rental, lease, or license to others; provided that:<sup>18</sup>

- (1) The vendee is regularly engaged in the business of renting, leasing, or licensing such property for a consideration; and
- (2) The item so claimed as "rental equipment" is not used by the person claiming the exemption for any purpose other than rental, lease, or license for compensation, to an extent greater than fifteen percent (15%) of its actual use.

"Rental Supply" means an expendable or nonexpendable repair or replacement part sold to become part of "rental equipment", provided that:

- (1) The documentation relating to each purchased item so claimed specifically itemizes to the vendor the actual item of "rental equipment" to which the purchased item is intended to be attached as a repair or replacement part; and
- (2) The vendee is regularly engaged in the business of renting, leasing, or licensing such property for a consideration; and
- (3) The item so claimed as "rental equipment" is not used by the person claiming the exemption for any purpose other than rental, lease, or license for compensation, to an extent greater than fifteen percent (15%) of its actual use.

"Repairer" means a person who restores or renews products, wares, or articles of manufacture.

"Resides within the City" means in cases other than individuals, whose legal addresses are determinative of residence, the engaging, continuing, or conducting of regular business activity

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<sup>15</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>16</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

<sup>17</sup> Amended Ordinance 3091 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

<sup>18</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

within the City.

"Restaurant" means any business activity where articles of food, drink, or condiment are customarily prepared or served to patrons for consumption on or off the premises, also including bars, cocktail lounges, the dining rooms of hotels, and all caterers. For the purposes of this Chapter, a "fast food" business, which includes street vendors and mobile vendors selling in public areas or at entertainment or sports or similar events, who prepares or sells food or drink for consumption on or off the premises is considered a "restaurant", and not a "retailer".

"Retail Sale (Sale at Retail)" means the sale of tangible personal property, except the sale of tangible personal property to a person regularly engaged in the business of selling such property.

"Retailer" means any person engaged or continuing in the business of sales of tangible personal property at retail.

"Sale" means any transfer of title or possession, or both, exchange, barter, conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, including consignment transactions and auctions, of property for a consideration. "Sale" includes any transaction whereby the possession of such property is transferred but the seller retains the title as security for the payment of the price. "Sale" also includes the fabrication of tangible personal property for consumers who, in whole or in part, furnish either directly or indirectly the materials used in such fabrication work.

"Solar Daylighting" means a device that is specifically designed to capture and redirect the visible portion of the solar beam, while controlling the infrared portion, for use in illuminating interior building spaces in lieu of artificial lighting. <sup>19</sup>

"Solar Energy Device" means a system or series of mechanisms designed primarily to provide heating, to provide cooling, to produce electrical power, to produce mechanical power, to provide solar daylighting or to provide any combination of the foregoing by means of collecting and transferring solar generated energy into such uses either by active or passive means, including wind generator systems that produce electricity. Solar energy systems may also have the capability of storing solar energy for future use. Passive systems shall clearly be designed as a solar energy device, such as a trombe wall, and not merely as a part of a normal structure, such as a window. <sup>20</sup>

"Speculative Builder" means either:

- (1) An owner-builder who sells or contracts to sell, at anytime, improved real property (as provided in Section 416) consisting of:
  - A) Custom, model, or inventory homes, regardless of the stage of completion of such homes; or
  - B) Improved residential or commercial lots without a structure; or
- (2) An owner-builder who sells or contracts to sell improved real property, other than improved real property specified in subsection (1) above:
  - A) Prior to completion; or

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<sup>19</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

<sup>20</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

- B) Before the expiration of twenty-four (24) months after the improvements of the real property sold are substantially complete.

"Substantially Complete" means the construction contracting or reconstruction contracting:

- (1) Has passed final inspection or its equivalent; or
- (2) Certificate of occupancy or its equivalent has been issued; or
- (3) Is ready for immediate occupancy or use.

"Supplier" means any person who rents, leases, licenses, or makes sales of tangible personal property within the City, either directly to the consumer or customer or to wholesalers, jobbers, fabricators, manufacturers, modifiers, assemblers, repairers, or those engaged in the business of providing services which involve the use, sale, rental, lease, or license of tangible personal property.

"Tax Collector" means the Financial Services General Manager or his designee or agent for all purposes under this Chapter.

"Taxpayer" means any person liable for any tax under this Chapter.

"Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer" means the individual designated by the City to perform the duties identified in Sections 515 and 516. In cities with a population of 50,000 or more, the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer shall be an employee of the City. In cities with a population of less than 50,000, the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer need not be an employee of the City. Regardless of whether the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer is or is not an employee of the City, the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer shall have substantive knowledge of taxation. The identity of and telephone number for the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer can be obtained from the Tax Collector.<sup>21</sup>

"Telecommunication Service" means any service or activity connected with the transmission or relay of sound, visual image, data, information, images, or material over a communications channel or any combination of communications channels.

"Transient" means any person who either at the person's own expense or at the expense of another obtains lodging space or the use of lodging space on a daily or weekly basis, or on any other basis for less than thirty (30) consecutive days.<sup>22</sup>

"Utility Service" means the producing, providing, or furnishing of electricity, electric lights, current, power, gas (natural or artificial), or water to consumers or ratepayers.

#### **Sec. 110. Definitions: Income-producing capital equipment.<sup>23</sup>**

- (a) The following tangible personal property, other than items excluded in subsection (d) below, shall be deemed "income-producing capital equipment" for the purposes of this Chapter:
- (1) Machinery or equipment used directly in manufacturing, processing, fabricating, job printing, refining or metallurgical operations. The terms "manufacturing", "processing", "fabricating", "job printing", "refining", and "metallurgical" as used in

<sup>21</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>22</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>23</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

this paragraph refer to and include those operations commonly understood within their ordinary meaning. "Metallurgical operations" includes leaching, milling, precipitating, smelting and refining.

- (2) Mining machinery, or equipment, used directly in the process of extracting ores or minerals from the earth for commercial purposes, including equipment required to prepare the materials for extraction and handling, loading or transporting such extracted material to the surface. "Mining" includes underground, surface and open pit operations for extracting ores and minerals.
- (3) Tangible personal property, sold to persons engaged in business classified under the telecommunications classification, consisting of central office switching equipment; switchboards; private branch exchange equipment; microwave radio equipment; and carrier equipment including optical fiber, coaxial cable, and other transmission media which are components of carrier systems.
- (4) Machinery, equipment, or transmission lines used directly in producing or transmitting electrical power, but not including distribution. Transformers and control equipment used at transmission substation sites constitute equipment used in producing or transmitting electrical power.
- (5) Pipes or valves four inches (4") in diameter or larger and related equipment, used to transport oil, natural gas, artificial gas, water, or coal slurry. For the purpose of this section, related equipment includes: compressor units, regulators, machinery and equipment, fittings, seals and any other parts that are used in operating the pipes or valves.<sup>24</sup>
- (6) Aircraft, navigational and communication instruments, and other accessories and related equipment sold to:
  - (A) A person holding a federal certificate of public convenience and necessity or foreign air carrier permit for air transportation for use as or in conjunction with or becoming a part of aircraft to be used to transport persons, property or United States mail in intrastate, interstate or foreign commerce.
  - (B) Any foreign government for use by such government outside of this State.
  - (C) Persons who are not residents of this State and who will not use such property in this State other than in removing such property from this State. This subdivision also applies to corporations that are not incorporated in this State, regardless of maintaining a place of business in this State, if the principal corporate office is located outside this State and the property will not be used in this State other than in removing the property from this State.
- (7) Machinery, tools, equipment and related supplies used or consumed directly in repairing, remodeling or maintaining aircraft, aircraft engines or aircraft component parts by or on behalf of a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property.
- (8) Railroad rolling stock, rails, ties and signal control equipment used directly to transport persons or property.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>25</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

- (9) Machinery or equipment used directly to drill for oil or gas or used directly in the process of extracting oil or gas from the earth for commercial purposes.
- (10) Buses or other urban mass transit vehicles which are used directly to transport persons or property for hire or pursuant to a governmentally adopted and controlled urban mass transportation program and which are sold to bus companies holding a federal certificate of convenience and necessity or operated by a city, town or other governmental entity or by any person contracting with such governmental entity as part of a governmentally adopted and controlled program to provide urban mass transportation.
- (11) Metering, monitoring, receiving, and transmitting equipment acquired by persons engaged in the business of providing utility services or telecommunications services; but only to the extent that such equipment is to be used by the customers of such persons and such persons separately charge or bill their customers for use of such equipment.
- (12) Groundwater measuring devices required under A.R.S. § 45-604.
- (13) Machinery or equipment used in research and development. In this paragraph, "research and development" means basic and applied research in the sciences and engineering, and designing, developing or testing prototypes, processes or new products, including research and development of computer software that is embedded in or an integral part of the prototype or new product or that is required for machinery or equipment otherwise exempt under this section to function effectively. Research and development do not include manufacturing quality control, routine consumer product testing, market research, sales promotion, sales service, research in social sciences or psychology, computer software research that is not included in the definition of research and development, or other nontechnological activities or technical services.
- (14) (Reserved)
- (15) Included in income producing capital equipment are liquid, solid or gaseous chemicals used in manufacturing, processing, fabricating, mining, refining, metallurgical operations or research and development or job printing<sup>26</sup> if using or consuming the chemicals, alone or as part of an integrated system of chemicals, involving direct contact with the materials from which the product is produced for the purpose of causing or permitting a chemical or physical change to occur in the materials as part of the production process. This subsection does not include chemicals that are used or consumed in activities such as packaging, storage or transportation but does not affect any deduction for such chemicals that is otherwise provided by this Code. Chemicals meeting the requirements of this subsection are deemed not to be expendable under subsection (d) of this section.<sup>27</sup>
- (16) Cleanrooms that are used for manufacturing, processing, fabrication or research and development, as defined in paragraph (13) of this subsection, of semiconductor products. For purposes of this paragraph, "Cleanroom" means all property that comprises or creates an environment where humidity, temperature, particulate matter and contamination are precisely controlled within specified parameters, without regard to whether the property is actually contained within that environment or whether any of the property is affixed to or incorporated into

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<sup>26</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>27</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998



real property. Cleanroom:

- (A) Includes the integrated systems, fixtures, piping, movable partitions, lighting and all property that is necessary or adapted to reduce contamination or to control airflow, temperature, humidity, chemical purity or other environmental conditions or manufacturing tolerances, as well as the production machinery and equipment operating in conjunction with the cleanroom environment.
  - (B) Does not include the building or other permanent, nonremovable component of the building that houses the cleanroom environment.<sup>28</sup>
- (17) Machinery and equipment that are purchased by or on behalf of the owners of a soundstage complex and primarily used for motion picture, multimedia or interactive video production in the complex. This paragraph applies only if the initial construction of the soundstage complex begins after June 30, 1996 and before January 1, 2002 and the machinery and equipment are purchased before the expiration of five years after the start of initial construction. For purposes of this paragraph:
- (A) “Motion picture, multimedia or interactive video production” includes products for theatrical and television release, educational presentations, electronic retailing, documentaries, music videos, industrial film, CD-ROM, video game production, commercial advertising and television episode production and other genres that are introduced through developing technology.
  - (B) “Soundstage complex” means a facility of multiple stages including production offices, construction shops and related areas, prop and costume shops, storage areas, parking for production vehicles and areas that are leased to businesses that complement the production needs and orientation of the overall facility.<sup>29</sup>
- (18) Tangible personal property that is used by either of the following to receive, store, convert, produce, generate, decode, encode, control or transmit telecommunications information:
- (A) Any direct broadcast satellite television or data transmission service that operates pursuant to 47 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 25 and 100.
  - (B) Any satellite television or data transmission facility, if both of the following conditions are met:
    - (i) Over two-thirds of the transmissions, measured in megabytes, transmitted by the facility during the test period were transmitted to or on behalf of one or more direct broadcast satellite television or data transmission services that operate pursuant to 47 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 25 and 100.
    - (ii) Over two-thirds of the transmissions, measured in megabytes, transmitted by or on behalf of those direct broadcast television or data transmission services during the test period were transmitted by the facility to or on behalf of those services.

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<sup>28</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

<sup>29</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

For purposes of subdivision (B) of this paragraph, "Test Period" means the three hundred sixty-five day period beginning on the later of the date on which the tangible personal property is purchased or the date on which the direct broadcast satellite television or data transmission service first transmits information to its customers.<sup>30</sup>

- (19) Machinery and equipment that is used directly in the feeding of poultry, the environmental control of housing for poultry, the movement of eggs within a production and packaging facility or the sorting or cooling of eggs. This exemption does not apply to vehicles used for transporting eggs.
- (20) Machinery or equipment, including related structural components, that is employed in connection with manufacturing, processing, fabricating, job printing, refining, mining, natural gas pipelines, metallurgical operations, telecommunications, producing or transmitting electricity or research and development that is used directly to meet or exceed rules or regulations adopted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality or a political subdivision of this state to prevent, monitor, control or reduce land, water or air pollution.
- (21) Machinery or equipment that enables a television station to originate and broadcast or to receive and broadcast digital television signals and that was purchased to facilitate compliance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104; 110 Stat. 56; 47 United States Code Section 336) and the Federal Communications Commission order issued April 21, 1997, 47 Code of Federal Regulations Part 73. This paragraph does not exempt any of the following:
  - (A) Repair or replacement parts purchased for the machinery or equipment described in this paragraph.
  - (B) Machinery or equipment purchased to replace machinery or equipment for which an exemption was previously claimed and taken under this paragraph.
  - (C) Any machinery or equipment purchased after the television station has ceased analog broadcasting, or purchased after November 1, 2009, whichever occurs first.<sup>31</sup>
- (b) The term "income-producing capital equipment" shall further include ancillary machinery and equipment used for the treatment of waste products created by the business activities which are allowed to purchase "income-producing capital equipment" defined in subsection (a) above.
- (c) The term "income-producing capital equipment" shall further include repair and replacement parts, other than the items in subsection (d) below, where the property is acquired to become an integral part of another item itemized in subsections (a) or (b) above.
- (d) The tangible personal property defined as income-producing capital equipment in this Section shall not include:
  - (1) Expendable materials. For purposes of this paragraph, expendable materials do not include any of the categories of tangible personal property specified in

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<sup>30</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>31</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

subsections (a), (b) or (c) of this section regardless of the cost or useful life of that property.<sup>32</sup>

- (2) Janitorial equipment and hand tools.
  - (3) Office equipment, furniture, and supplies.
  - (4) Tangible personal property used in selling or distributing activities.
  - (5) Motor vehicles required to be licensed by the State of Arizona, except buses or other urban mass transit vehicles specifically exempted pursuant to subsection (a)(10) above without regard to the use of such motor vehicles.
  - (6) Shops, buildings, docks, depots, and all other materials of whatever kind or character not specifically included as exempt.
  - (7) Motors and pumps used in drip irrigation systems.
- (e) For the purposes of this Section:
- (1) "Aircraft" includes:
    - (A) An airplane flight simulator that is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for use as a Phase II or higher flight simulator under Appendix H, 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 121.
    - (B) Tangible personal property that is permanently affixed or attached as a component part of an aircraft that is owned or operated by a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property.
  - (2) "Other accessories and related equipment" includes aircraft accessories and equipment such as ground service equipment that physically contact aircraft at some point during the overall carrier operation.

**Sec. 115. Definitions: computer software; custom computer programming.**

- (a) "Computer Software" means any computer program, part of such a program, or any sequence of instructions for automatic data processing equipment. Computer software which is not "custom computer programming" is deemed to be tangible personal property for the purposes of this Chapter, regardless of the method by which title, possession, or right to use the software is transferred to the user.
- (b) "Custom Computer Programming" means any computer software which is written or prepared exclusively for a customer and includes those services represented by separately stated charges for the modification of existing prewritten programs when the modifications are written or prepared exclusively for a customer.
  - (1) The term does not include a prewritten program which is held or existing for general or repeated sale, lease, or license, even if the program was initially developed on a custom basis for in-house, or for a single customer's use.
  - (2) Modification to an existing prewritten program to meet the customer's needs is custom computer programming only to the extent of the modification, and only to

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<sup>32</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

the extent that the actual amount charged for the modification is separately stated on invoices, statements, and other billing documents supplied to the customer.

**Sec. 120. (Reserved)**

## **Article II - Determination of Gross Income**

### **Sec. 200. Determination of gross income: in general.**

- (a) Gross income includes:
  - (1) The value proceeding or accruing from the sale of property, the providing of service, or both.
  - (2) The total amount of the sale, lease, license for use, or rental price at the time of such sale, rental, lease, or license.
  - (3) All receipts, cash, credits, barter, exchange, reduction of or forgiveness of indebtedness, and property of every kind or nature derived from a sale, lease, license for use, rental, or other taxable activity.
  - (4) All other receipts whether payment is advanced prior to, contemporaneous with, or deferred in whole or in part subsequent to the activity or transaction.
- (b) Barter, exchange, trade-outs, or similar transactions are includable in gross income at the fair market value of the service rendered or property transferred, whichever is higher, as they represent consideration given for consideration received.
- (c) No deduction or exclusion is allowed from gross income on account of the cost of the property sold, the time value of money, expense of any kind or nature, losses, materials used, labor or service performed, interest paid, or credits granted.

### **Sec. 210. Determination of gross income: transactions between affiliated companies or persons.**

In transactions between affiliated companies or persons, or in other circumstances where the relationship between the parties is such that the gross income from the transaction is not indicative of the market value of the subject matter of the transaction, the Tax Collector shall determine the "market value" upon which the City Privilege and Use Taxes shall be levied. "Market value" shall correspond as nearly as possible to the gross income from similar transactions of like quality or character by other taxpayers where no common interest exists between the parties, but otherwise under similar circumstances and conditions.

### **Sec. 220. Determination of gross income: artificially contrived transactions.**

The Tax Collector may examine any transaction, reported or unreported, if, in his opinion, there has been or may be an evasion of the taxes imposed by this Chapter and to estimate the amount subject to tax in cases where such evasion has occurred. The Tax Collector shall disregard any transaction which has been undertaken in an artificial manner in order to evade the taxes imposed by this Chapter.

### **Sec. 230. Determination of gross income based upon method of reporting.**

The method of reporting chosen by a taxpayer, as provided in Section 520, necessitates the following adjustments to gross income for all purposes under this Chapter:

- (a) Cash basis - When a person elects to report and pay taxes on a cash basis, gross income for the reporting period shall include:
- (1) The total amounts received on "paid in full" transactions, against which are allowed all applicable deductions and exclusions; and
  - (2) All amounts received on accounts receivable, conditional sales contract, or other similar transactions, against which no deductions and no exclusions from gross income are allowed. Interest on finance contracts may be deducted if separately itemized on all books and records.<sup>33</sup>
- (b) Accrual basis - When a person elects to report and pay taxes on an accrual basis, gross income shall include all gross income for the applicable period regardless of whether receipts are for cash, credit, conditional, or partially deferred transactions, and regardless of whether or not any security document or instrument is sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred to another. Persons reporting on the accrual basis may deduct bad debts, provided that:
- (1) The amount deducted for the bad debt must be deducted from gross income of the month in which the actual charge-off was made, and only to the extent that such amount was actually charged-off, and also only to the extent that such amount is or was included as taxable gross income; and
  - (2) If any amount is subsequently collected on such charged-off account, it shall be included in gross income for the month in which it was collected, without deduction for expense of collection.

**Sec. 240. Exclusion of cash discounts, returns, refunds, trade-in values, vendor-issued coupons, and rebates from gross income.**

- (a) The following items are not included in gross income:
- (1) Cash discounts allowed by the vendor for timely payment, but only discounts allowed against taxable gross income.
  - (2) The value of property returned by customers to the extent of the amount actually refunded either in cash or by credit and the amount refunded was included in taxable gross income.
  - (3) The trade-in allowance for tangible personal property accepted as payment, not to exceed the full sales price for any tangible personal property sold, when the full sales price is included in taxable gross income. Trade-in allowances are not allowed for manufactured buildings taxable under Section 427.<sup>34</sup>
  - (4) When coupons issued by a vendor are later accepted by the vendor as a discount against the transaction, the discount may be excluded from gross income as a cash discount. Amounts credited or refunded by a vendor for redemption of coupons issued by any person other than the vendor may not be excluded from gross income.
  - (5) Rebates issued by the vendor to a customer as a discount against the transaction may be excluded from gross income as a cash discount. Rebates issued by a

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<sup>33</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective July 20, 1996

<sup>34</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

person other than the vendor may not be excluded from gross income, even when the vendee assigns his right to the rebate to the vendor.

- (6) In computing the tax base, gross proceeds of sales or gross income does not include a manufacturer's cash rebate on the sales price of a motor vehicle if the buyer assigns the buyer's right in the rebate to the retailer.<sup>35</sup>
- (b) If the amount specified in subsection (a) above is credited by a vendor subsequent to the reporting period in which the original transaction occurs, such amount may be excluded from the taxable gross income of that subsequent reporting period, but only to the extent that the excludable amount was reported as taxable gross income in that prior reporting period.

**Sec. 250. Exclusion of combined taxes from gross income; itemization; notice; limitations.**

- (a) When tax is separately charged and/or collected. The total amount of gross income shall be exclusive of combined taxes only when the person upon whom the tax is imposed shall establish to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector that such tax has been added to the total price of the transaction. The taxpayer must provide to his customer and also keep a reliable record of the actual tax charged or collected, shown by cash register tapes, sales tickets, or other accurate record, separating net transaction price and combined tax. If at any time the Tax Collector cannot ascertain from the records kept by the taxpayer the total or amounts billed or collected on account of combined taxes, the claimed taxes collected may not be excluded from gross income, unless such records are completed and/or clarified to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.
  - (1) Remittance of all tax charged and/or collected. When an added charge is made to cover City (or combined) Privilege and Use Taxes, the person upon whom the tax is imposed shall pay the full amount of the City taxes due, whether collected by him or not, and in the event he collects more than the amount due he shall remit the excess to the Tax Collector. In the event the Tax Collector cannot ascertain from the records kept by the taxpayer the total or amounts of taxes collected by him, and the Tax Collector is satisfied that the taxpayer has collected taxes in an amount in excess of the tax assessed under this Chapter, the Tax Collector may determine the amount collected and collect the tax so determined in the manner provided in this Chapter.
  - (2) Itemization. A taxpayer, in order to be entitled to exclude from his gross income any amounts paid to him by customers for combined taxes passed on to the customer, must prove that he has provided his customer with a written record of the transaction showing at a minimum the price before the tax, the combined taxes, and the total cost. This shall be addition to the record required to be kept under subsection (a) above.
- (b) When tax has been neither separately charged nor separately collected. When the person upon whom the tax is imposed shall establish by means of invoices, sales tickets, or other reliable evidence, that no added charge was made to cover combined taxes, the taxpayer may exclude tax collected from such income by dividing such taxable gross income by 1.00 plus a decimal figure representing the effective combined tax rate expressed as a fraction of 1.00.

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<sup>35</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective July 20, 1996

## **Sec. 260. Exclusion of fees and taxes from gross income; limitations**

- (a) There shall be excluded from gross income of vendors of motor vehicles those motor vehicle registration fees, license fees and taxes, and lieu taxes imposed pursuant to Title 28, Arizona Revised Statutes in connection with the initial purchase of a motor vehicle, but only to the extent that such taxes or fees or both have been separately itemized and collected from the purchaser of the motor vehicle by the vendor, actually remitted to the proper registering, licensing, and taxing authorities, and the provisions of Article III, regarding recordkeeping, are met. For the purpose of the exclusion provided by this subsection only, the terms vendor and vendee shall also apply to a lessor and lessee respectively, of a motor vehicle if, in addition to all other requirements of this subsection, the lease agreement specifically requires the lessee to pay such fees or taxes, and such amounts are separately itemized in the documentation provided to the lessee.
- (b) There shall be excluded from gross income of vendors at retail of heavy trucks and trailers, the amount attributable to Federal Excise Taxes imposed by 26 U.S.C. Section 4051, but only to the extent that the provisions of Article III, relating to recordkeeping, have been met.
- (c) There shall be excluded from gross income the following fees, taxes, and lieu taxes, but only to the extent that such taxes or fees or both have been separately itemized and collected from the purchaser by the vendor, actually remitted to the proper registering, licensing, and taxing authorities, and the provisions of Article III, regarding recordkeeping, are met:<sup>36</sup>
  - (1) Emergency telecommunication services excise tax imposed pursuant to A.R.S. Section 42-5252. "Emergency telecommunication services" means telecommunication services or systems that use number 911 or a similarly designated telephone number for emergency calls;
  - (2) The telecommunication devices for the deaf and the severely hearing and speech impaired excise tax imposed pursuant to A.R.S. Section 42-5252;
  - (3) Federal excise taxes on communications services as imposed by 26 U.S.C. § 4251;
  - (4) Car rental surcharge imposed pursuant to A.R.S. Section 48-4234;
  - (5) Federal excise taxes on passenger vehicles as imposed by 26 U.S.C. §4001(.01);
  - (6) Waste tire disposal fees, imposed pursuant to A.R.S. Section 44-1302.<sup>37</sup>
- (d) There shall be excluded from gross income of vendors of motor vehicles dealer documentation fees, but only to the extent that such fees have been separately itemized and collected from the purchaser of the motor vehicle by the vendor.<sup>38</sup>

## **Sec. 265. (Reserved)<sup>39</sup>**

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<sup>36</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>37</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

<sup>38</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective July 20, 1996

<sup>39</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995



**Sec. 266. Exclusion of motor carrier revenues from gross income.<sup>40</sup>**

There shall be excluded from gross income the gross proceeds of sale or gross income derived from any of the following:

- (a) A motor carrier's use on the public highways in this State if the motor carrier is subject to a fee prescribed in A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 15, Article 4 or A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 16.<sup>41 42</sup>
- (b) Leasing, renting or licensing a motor vehicle subject to and upon which the fee has been paid under A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 16.<sup>43</sup>
- (c) The sale of a motor vehicle and any repair and replacement parts and tangible personal property becoming a part of such motor vehicle, to a motor carrier who is subject to a fee prescribed in A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 16 and who is engaged in the business of leasing, renting or licensing such property.<sup>44</sup>
- (d) For the purposes of these exclusions, "motor carrier" includes a motor vehicle weighing 26,000 pounds or more, a lightweight motor vehicle which weighs 12,001 pounds to 26,000 pounds and a light motor vehicle weighing 12,000 pounds or less, which pay the fee prescribed in A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 15, Article 4 or A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 16.<sup>45 46</sup>

**Sec. 270. Exclusion of gross income of persons deemed not engaged in business.**

- (a) For the purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:
  - (1) "Federally Exempt Organization" means an organization which has received a determination of exemption, or qualifies for such exemption, under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c) and rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue pertaining to same, but not including a "governmental entity", "non-licensed business", or "public educational entity".
  - (2) "Governmental Entity" means the Federal Government, the State of Arizona, any other state, or any political subdivision, department, or agency of any of the foregoing; provided further that persons contracting with such a governmental entity to operate any part of a governmentally adopted and controlled program to provide urban mass transportation shall be deemed a governmental entity in all activities such person performs when engaged in said contract.
  - (3) "Non-Licensed Business" means any person conducting any business activity for gain or profit, whether or not actually realized, which person is not required to be licensed for the conduct or transaction of activities subject to the tax imposed under this Chapter.
  - (4) "Proprietary Club" means any club which has qualified or would otherwise qualify as an exempt club under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(7), (8), and (9), notwithstanding the fact that some or all of the members may own a proprietary

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<sup>40</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>41</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>42</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>43</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>44</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>45</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>46</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

interest in the property and assets of the club.

- (5) "Public Educational Entity" means any educational entity operated pursuant to any provisions of Title 15, Arizona Revised Statutes.
- (b) Transactions which, if conducted by any other person, would produce gross income subject to tax under this Chapter shall not be subject to the imposition of such tax if conducted entirely by a public educational entity; governmental entity, except "proprietary activities" of municipalities as provided by Regulation; or non-licensed business.
- (c) Transactions which, if conducted by any other person, would produce gross income subject to the tax under this Chapter shall not be subject to the imposition of such tax if conducted entirely by a federally exempt organization or proprietary club with the following exceptions:
- (1) Transactions involving proprietary clubs and organizations exempt under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(7), (8), and (9), where the gross revenue of the activity received from persons other than members and bona fide guests of members is in an amount in excess of fifteen percent (15%) of total gross revenue, as prescribed by Regulation. In the event this fifteen percent (15%) limit is exceeded, the entire gross income of such entity shall be subject to the applicable tax.
- (2) Gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512, including all statutory definitions and determinations, the rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and his administrative interpretations and guidelines.
- (3) (Reserved)
- (d) Except as may be provided elsewhere in this Chapter, transactions where customers are exempt organizations, proprietary clubs, public educational entities, governmental entities, or non-licensed businesses shall be deemed taxable transactions for the purpose of the imposition of taxes under this Chapter, notwithstanding that property so acquired may in fact be resold or leased by the acquiring person to others. In the case of sales, rentals, leases, or licenses to proprietary clubs or exempt organizations, the vendor may be relieved from the responsibility for reporting and paying tax on such income only by obtaining from its vendee a verified statement that includes:
- (1) A statement that when the property so acquired is resold, rented, leased, or licensed, that the otherwise exempt vendee chooses, or is required, to pay City Privilege Tax or an equivalent excise tax on its gross income from such transactions and does in fact file returns on same; and
- (2) The Privilege License number of the otherwise exempt vendee; and
- (3) Such other information as the Tax Collector may require.
- (e) Franchisees or concessionaires operating businesses for or on behalf of any exempt organization, governmental entity, public educational entity, proprietary club, or non-licensed business shall not be considered to be such an exempt organization, club, entity, or non-licensed business, but shall be deemed to be a taxpayer subject to the provisions of this Chapter, except as provided in the definition of governmental entity, regarding urban mass transit.
- (f) In any case, if a federally exempt organization, proprietary club, or non-licensed

business rents, leases, licenses, or purchases any tangible personal property for its own storage or use, and no City Privilege or Use Tax or equivalent excise tax has been paid on such transaction, said organization, club, or business shall be liable for the Use Tax upon such acquisitions or use of such property.

**Sec. 280. (Reserved)**

**Sec. 285. (Reserved)**

**Sec. 290. (Reserved)**

## Article III - Licensing and Recordkeeping

### Sec. 300. Licensing requirements.

- (a) The following persons shall make application to the Tax Collector for a Privilege License, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of twelve dollars (\$12.00), and no person shall engage or continue in business or engage in such activities until he shall have such a license:
  - (1) Every person desiring to engage or continue in business activities within the City upon which a Privilege Tax is imposed by this Chapter.
  - (2) Every person, engaging or continuing in business within the City, storing or using tangible personal property in this City upon which a Use Tax is imposed by this Chapter.
  - (3) (Reserved)
- (b) A person engaged in more than one activity subject to City Privilege and Use Taxes at any one business location is not required to obtain a separate license for each activity; provided that, at the time such person makes application for a license, he shall list on such application each category of activity in which he is engaged. The licensee shall inform the Tax Collector of any changes in his business activities, location, or mailing address within thirty (30) days.<sup>47</sup>
- (c) Limitation. The issuance of a Privilege License by the Tax Collector shall in no way be construed as permission to operate a business activity in violation of any other law or regulation to which such activity may be subject.

### Sec. 305. Special licensing requirements.

- (a) Partnerships. Application for a Privilege License for a partnership engaging or continuing in business in the City shall provide, as a minimum, the names and addresses of all general partners. Licenses issued to persons engaged in business as partners, limited or general, shall be in the name of the partnership.
- (b) Corporations. Application for a Privilege License for a corporation engaging or continuing in business in the City shall provide, as a minimum, the names and addresses of both the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the corporation. Licenses issued to persons engaged in business as corporations shall be in the name of the corporation.
- (c) Multiple Locations or Multiple Business Names. A person engaged in or conducting one or more businesses at two (2) or more locations or under two (2) or more business names shall procure a license for each such location or business name. A "location" is a place of a separate business establishment.
- (d) Licenses shall not be issued until all legal requirements are met. It shall be a condition precedent to the issuance of a license that all statutes, ordinances, regulations, and other requirements affecting the public peace, health, and safety be complied with in total.

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<sup>47</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

**Sec. 310. Licensing: duration of license; annual license fee; transferability; display; penalties; residential property provisions; cancellation; renewal; late application provisions; actions.**

- (a) Except as provided in Section 320, the Privilege License shall be valid until request for cancellation and unless canceled or revoked under the provisions of Section 320 or by surrender of the license by the licensee or expiration through cessation by the licensee of the business activity for which it was issued or through failure of the licensee to pay the annual license fee imposed hereunder.
- (b) The Privilege License shall be nontransferable between owners or locations, and shall be on display to the public in the licensee's place of business.
- (c) Any licensee who permits his license to expire through cancellation as provided in Section 320, by his request for cancellation, by surrender of the license, or by the cessation of the business activity for which the license was issued, and who thereafter applies for a license, shall be granted a new license as an original applicant, shall pay the application license fee imposed by Section 300, and the annual license fee imposed herein. Any licensee who loses or misplaces his Privilege License which is still in effect shall be charged the current application license fee for each reissuance of a license.
- (d) In addition to the license application fee imposed under Section 300, and excepting those persons paying the annual license fee imposed under (f) of this Section, each person licensed under this Chapter shall pay an annual license fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each license held by such person. Such fee shall be due and payable on January 1 and shall be considered delinquent if not received on or before the last business day of January each year. Such annual fee must be paid to and received by the Tax Collector by the due date and shall be nonrefundable. <sup>48</sup>
- (e) Any licensee who fails to renew his license on or before the date provided in (d) above shall be deemed to be operating without a license following such due date, and shall be subject to all penalties imposed under this Chapter against persons required to be licensed and operating without a license. The non-licensed status may be removed by payment of an annual license fee in the amount of one hundred fifty percent (150%) imposed under (d) above, and the payment of a nonrefundable application fee required under Section 300.
- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) above, a person who is engaged in the rental of residential real property, other than transient lodging, shall pay an annual license fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per residential unit, (excluding units primarily used for transient lodging) per year not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50). The due date for such fees shall be as set forth in (d) above, and such fee shall be nonrefundable. Any licensee required to pay an annual fee under this subsection, who fails to pay same by said due date shall be deemed to be operating without a license after such date, and subject to all penalties imposed under this Chapter against persons required to be licensed and operating without a license. The non-licensed status may be removed by payment of a penalty of an additional one dollar (\$1.00) per unit per year, not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) per year, and the annual license fee, and the payment of a nonrefundable application fee required under Section 300.
- (g) (Reserved)
- (h) If any person required to be licensed under this Chapter fails to obtain a license on or

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<sup>48</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective May 28, 2002

before the conducting of any business activity requiring such license, such person shall be subject to a penalty in the amount of one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the applicable fee for each event or period of time for which such fee would have been imposed from and after the date on which such activity commenced until paid. This penalty shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed under this Chapter and must be paid prior to the issuance of any license.

- (i) Notwithstanding the failure of any person to apply for a license and to remit all fees and penalties, if any, imposed herein, such person conducting a business activity subject to licensing without obtaining a license, shall be liable to the city for all applicable fees and penalties and shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 580 and 590, to the same extent as if said fees and penalties were taxes and penalties under such Sections.
- (j) (Reserved)

### **Sec. 315. Transient privilege licenses.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 300, a person who will be engaged in business for a period of thirty (30) days or less, may be issued a transient privilege license, which shall be valid only for a thirty (30) day period following the application date, upon payment of a transient application and license fee of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in lieu of all other fees imposed under this Article. In the event that a person obtaining and operating a business activity by virtue of a transient privilege license, continues to conduct said business beyond the thirty (30) days set forth in such license, such person shall be deemed to be conducting a business activity in the city without a valid privilege license, and shall be subject to all penalties imposed on such activity under this Chapter. In addition thereto, such person shall not be relicensed with either a privilege license under the provisions of Section 300, or a further temporary license under the provision of this Section without paying all other applicable application fees and annual fees.

### **Sec. 320. Licensing: cancellation; revocation.**

- (a) Cancellation. The Tax Collector shall be authorized to cancel the City Privilege License of any licensee as "inactive" if the taxpayer, required to report monthly to the City, has neither filed any return nor remitted to the City any taxes imposed by this Chapter for a period of six (6) consecutive months; or, if required to report quarterly, has neither filed any return nor remitted any taxes imposed by this Chapter for two (2) consecutive quarters; or, if required to report annually, has neither filed any return nor remitted any taxes imposed by this Chapter when such annual report and tax are due to be filed with and remitted to the Tax Collector.
- (b) Revocation. If any licensee fails to pay any tax, interest, penalty, fee, or sum required to be paid to the City under this Chapter, or if such licensee fails to comply with any other provisions of this Chapter, the Tax Collector shall be authorized to revoke the City Privilege License of said licensee.
- (c) Notice and Hearing. The Tax Collector shall deliver notice to such licensee of cancellation or revocation of the Privilege License. If within twenty (20) days the licensee so notified requests a hearing, he shall be granted a hearing before the Tax Collector.
- (d) After cancellation or revocation of a taxpayer's license, the taxpayer shall not be relicensed until all reports have been filed; all fees, taxes, interest, and penalties due have been paid; and he is in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

### **Sec. 330. Operating without a license.**

It shall be unlawful for any person who is required by this Chapter to obtain a Privilege License to engage in or continue in business within the City without a license. The Tax Collector shall assess any delinquencies in tax, interest, and penalties which may apply against such person upon any transactions subject to the taxes imposed by this Chapter.

### **Sec. 350. Recordkeeping requirements.**

- (a) It shall be the duty of every person subject to the tax imposed by this Chapter to keep and preserve suitable records and such other books and accounts as may be necessary to determine the amount of tax for which he is liable under this Chapter. The books and records must contain, at a minimum, such detail and summary information as may be required by Regulation; or when records are maintained within an electronic data processing (EDP) system, the requirements established by the Arizona Department of Revenue for privilege tax filings will be accepted. It shall be the duty of every person to keep and preserve such books and records for a period equal to the applicable limitation period for assessment of tax, and all such books and records shall be open for inspection by the Tax Collector during any business day.<sup>49</sup>
- (b) The Tax Collector may direct, by letter, a specific taxpayer to keep specific other books, records, and documents. Such letter directive shall apply:
  - (1) Only for future reporting periods, and
  - (2) Only by express determination of the Tax Collector that such specific recordkeeping is necessary due to the inability of the City to conduct an adequate examination of the past activities of the taxpayer, which inability resulted from inaccurate or inadequate books, records, or documentation maintained by the taxpayer.

### **Sec. 360. Recordkeeping: claim of exclusion, exemption, deduction, or credit; documentation; liability.**

- (a) All deductions, exclusions, exemptions, and credits provided in this Chapter are conditional upon adequate proof and documentation of such as may be required either by this Chapter or Regulation.
- (b) Any person who claims and receives an exemption, deduction, exclusion, or credit to which he is not entitled under this Chapter, shall be subject to, liable for, and pay the tax on the transaction as if the vendor subject to the tax had passed the burden of the payment of the tax to the person wrongfully claiming the exemption. A person who wrongfully claimed such exemption shall be treated as if he is delinquent in the payment of the tax and shall be subject to interest and penalties upon such delinquency. However, if the tax is collected from the vendor on such transaction it shall not again be collected from the person claiming the exemption, or if collected from the person claiming the exemption it shall not also be collected from the vendor.

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<sup>49</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

**Sec. 370. Inadequate or unsuitable records.**

In the event the records provided by the taxpayer are considered by the Tax Collector to be inadequate or unsuitable to determine the amount of the tax for which such taxpayer is liable under the provisions of this Chapter, it is the responsibility of the taxpayer either:

- (1) To provide such other records required by this Chapter or Regulation; or
- (2) To correct or to reconstruct his records, to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.



## Article IV - Privilege Taxes

### Sec. 400. Imposition of Privilege Taxes; presumption.

- (a) There are hereby levied and imposed, subject to all other provisions of this Chapter, the following Privilege Taxes for the purpose of raising revenue to be used in defraying the necessary expenses of the City, such taxes to be collected by the Tax Collector:
  - (1) A Privilege Tax upon persons on account of their business activities, to the extent provided elsewhere in this Article, to be measured by the gross income of persons, whether derived from residents of the City or not, or whether derived from within the City or from without.
  - (2) (Reserved)
  - (3) A Privilege Tax upon persons for the privilege of selling jet fuel, whether derived from residents of the City or not, or whether derived from within the City or from without, in accordance with the provisions of Section 422.
- (b) Taxes imposed by this Chapter are in addition to others. Except as specifically designated elsewhere in this Chapter, each of the taxes imposed by this Chapter shall be in addition to all other licenses, fees, and taxes levied by law, including other taxes imposed by this Chapter.
- (c) Presumption. For the purpose of proper administration of this Chapter and to prevent evasion of the taxes imposed by this Chapter, it shall be presumed that all gross income, or gallons sold, is subject to the tax until the contrary is established by the taxpayer.
- (d) Limitation of exemptions, deductions, and credits allowed against the measure of taxes imposed by this Chapter. All exemptions, deductions, and credits set forth in this Chapter shall be limited to the specific activity or transaction described and not extended to include any other activity or transaction subject to the tax.

### Sec. 405. Advertising.

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of "local advertising" by billboards, direct mail, radio, television, or by any other means. However, commission and fees retained by an advertising agency shall not be includable in gross income from "local advertising". All delivery or disseminating of information directly to the public or any portion thereof for a consideration shall be considered "Local Advertising", except the following:
  - (1) The advertising of a product or service which is sold or provided both within and without the State by more than one "commonly designated business entity" within the State, and in which the advertisement names either no "commonly designated business entity" within the State or more than one "commonly designated business entity". "Commonly Designated Business Entity" means any person selling or providing any product or service to its customers under a common business name or style, even though there may be more than one legal entity conducting business functions using the same or substantially the same business name or style by virtue of a franchise, license, or similar agreement.

- (2) The advertising of a facility or of a service or activity in which neither the facility nor a business site carrying on such service or activity is located within the State.
  - (3) The advertising of a product which may only be purchased from an out-of-State supplier.
  - (4) Political advertising for United States Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates only.
  - (5) Advertising by means of product purchase coupons redeemable at any retail establishment carrying such product but not product coupons redeemable only at a single commonly designated business entity.
  - (6) Advertising transportation services where a substantial portion of the transportation activity of the business entity advertised involves interstate or foreign carriage.
- (b) (Reserved)

**Sec. 407. (Reserved)**

**Sec. 410. Amusements, exhibitions, and similar activities.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of providing amusement that begins in the City or takes place entirely within the City, which includes the following type or nature of businesses: <sup>50</sup>
  - (1) Operating or conducting theaters, movies, operas, shows of any type or nature, exhibitions, concerts, carnivals, circuses, amusement parks, menageries, fairs, races, contests, games, billiard or pool parlors, bowling alleys, skating rinks, tennis courts, golf courses, video games, pinball machines, public dances, dance halls, sports events, jukeboxes, batting and driving ranges, animal rides, or any other business charging admission for exhibition, amusement, or entertainment. <sup>51</sup>
  - (2) (Reserved)
- (b) Deductions or Exemptions. The gross proceeds of sales or gross income derived from the following sources is exempt from the tax imposed by this Section: <sup>52</sup>
  - (1) (Reserved) <sup>53</sup>
  - (2) Amounts retained by the Arizona Exposition and State Fair Board from ride ticket sales at the annual Arizona State Fair. <sup>54</sup>
  - (3) Income received from a hotel business subject to tax under Section 444, if all of the following apply: <sup>55</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>51</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>52</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>53</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>54</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective July 1, 1999

<sup>55</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

- (A) The hotel business receives gross income from a customer for the specific business activity otherwise subject to amusement tax.
  - (B) The consideration received by the hotel business is equal to or greater than the amount to be deducted under this subsection.
  - (C) The hotel business has provided an exemption certificate to the person engaging in business under this Section.
- (4) Income that is specifically included as the gross income of a business activity upon which another Section of this Article imposes a tax, that is separately stated to the customer and is taxable to the person engaged in that classification not to exceed consideration paid to the person conducting the activity. <sup>56</sup>
  - (5) Income from arranging transportation connected to amusement activity that is separately stated to the customer, not to exceed consideration paid to the transportation business. <sup>57</sup>
- (c) The tax imposed by this Section shall not include arranging an amusement activity as a service to a person's customers if that person is not otherwise engaged in the business of operating or conducting an amusement themselves or through others. This exception does not apply to businesses that operate or conduct amusements pursuant to customer orders and send the billings and receive the payments associated with that activity, including when the amusement is performed by third party independent contractors. For the purposes of this paragraph, "arranging" includes billing for or collecting amusement charges from a person's customers on behalf of the persons providing the amusement. <sup>58</sup>

**Sec. 415. Construction contracting: construction contractors.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business upon every construction contractor engaging or continuing in the business activity of construction contracting within the City.
  - (1) However, gross income from construction contracting shall not include charges related to groundwater measuring devices required by A.R.S. Section 45-604.
  - (2) (Reserved)
  - (3) Gross income from construction contracting shall not include gross income from the sale of manufactured buildings taxable under Section 427. <sup>59</sup>
  - (4) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008, the portion of gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the actual direct costs of providing architectural or engineering services that are incorporated in a contract is not subject to tax under this Section. For the purposes of this subsection, "Direct Costs" means the portion of the actual costs that are directly expended in

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<sup>56</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>57</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>58</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>59</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

providing architectural or engineering services.<sup>60</sup>

(b) Deductions and Exemptions.<sup>61</sup>

- (1) Gross income derived from acting as a "subcontractor" shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.
- (2) All construction contracting gross income subject to the tax and not deductible herein shall be allowed a deduction of thirty-five percent (35%).
- (3) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the purchase of machinery, equipment or other tangible personal property that is exempt from or deductible from privilege or use tax under:<sup>62</sup>
  - (A) Section 465, Subsections (g) and (p)
  - (B) Section 660, Subsections (g) and (p)

Shall be exempt or deductible, respectively, from the tax imposed by this Section.

- (4) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into for the installation, assembly, repair or maintenance of income -producing capital equipment, as defined in Section 110, that is deducted from the retail classification pursuant to Section 465(g) that does not become a permanent attachment to a building, highway, road, railroad, excavation or manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this section. If the ownership of the realty is separate from the ownership of the income-producing capital equipment, the determination as to permanent attachment shall be made as if the ownership was the same. The deduction provided in this paragraph does not include gross proceeds of sales or gross income from that portion of any contracting activity which consists of the development of, or modification to, real property in order to facilitate the installation, assembly, repair, maintenance or removal of the income-producing capital equipment. For purposes of this paragraph, "permanent attachment" means at least one of the following:<sup>63</sup>
  - (A) To be incorporated into real property.
  - (B) To become so affixed to real property that it becomes part of the real property.
  - (C) To be so attached to real property that removal would cause substantial damage to the real property from which it is removed.
- (5) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income received from a contract for the construction of an environmentally controlled facility for the raising of poultry for the production of eggs and the sorting, or cooling and packaging of eggs shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

<sup>61</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>62</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 1999

<sup>63</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

<sup>64</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

- (6) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from the installation, assembly, repair or maintenance of cleanrooms that are deducted from the tax base of the retail classification pursuant to Section 465, Subsection (g) shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>65</sup>
- (7) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into with a person who is engaged in the commercial production of livestock, livestock products or agricultural, horticultural, viticultural or floricultural crops or products in this state for the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, wrecking or demolition or addition to or subtraction from any building, highway, road, excavation, manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement used directly and primarily to prevent, monitor, control or reduce air, water or land pollution shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>66</sup>
- (8) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income received from a post-construction contract to perform post-construction treatment of real property for termite and general pest control, including wood destroying organisms, shall be exempt from tax imposed under this Section.<sup>67</sup>
- (9) Through December 31, 2009, the gross proceeds of sales or gross income received from a contract for constructing any lake facility development in a commercial enhancement reuse district that is designated pursuant to A.R.S. § 9-499.08 if the contractor maintains the following records in a form satisfactory to the Arizona Department of Revenue and to the City:<sup>68</sup>
  - (A) The certificate of qualification of the lake facility development issued by the City pursuant to A.R.S. § 9-499.08, subsection D.
  - (B) All state and local transaction privilege tax returns for the period of time during which the contractor received gross proceeds of sales or gross income from a contract to construct a lake facility development in a designated commercial enhancement reuse district, showing the amount exempted from state and local taxation.
  - (C) Any other information considered to be necessary.
- (10) Development or impact fees included in a construction or development contract for payment to the state or local government to offset governmental costs of providing public infrastructure, public safety and other public services to a development.<sup>69</sup>
- (11) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008 and ending before January 1, 2011, the gross proceeds of sales or gross income derived from a contract to provide and install a solar energy device. The contractor shall register with the Department of Revenue as a solar energy contractor. By registering, the contractor acknowledges that it will make its books and records relating to sales of solar energy devices available to the Department of Revenue and the City, as applicable, for examination.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>66</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>67</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

<sup>68</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective September 1, 2006

<sup>69</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective September 1, 2006

<sup>70</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

- (c) "Subcontractor" means a construction contractor performing work for either:
- (1) A construction contractor who has provided the subcontractor with a written declaration that he is liable for the tax for the project and has provided the subcontractor his City Privilege License number.
  - (2) An owner-builder who has provided the subcontractor with a written declaration that:
    - (A) The owner-builder is improving the property for sale; and
    - (B) The owner-builder is liable for the tax for such construction contracting activity; and
    - (C) The owner-builder has provided the contractor his City Privilege License number.
  - (3) A person selling new manufactured buildings who has provided the subcontractor with a written declaration that he is liable for the tax for the site preparation and set-up; and provided the subcontractor his City Privilege License number.<sup>71</sup>

Subcontractor also includes a construction contractor performing work for another subcontractor as defined above.

**Sec. 416. Construction contracting: speculative builders.**

- (a) The tax shall be equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in business as a speculative builder within the City.
- (1) The gross income of a speculative builder considered taxable shall include the total selling price from the sale of improved real property at the time of closing of escrow or transfer of title.
  - (2) "Improved Real Property" means any real property:
    - (A) Upon which a structure has been constructed; or
    - (B) Where improvements have been made to land containing no structure (such as paving or landscaping); or
    - (C) Which has been reconstructed as provided by Regulation; or
    - (D) Where water, power, and streets have been constructed to the property line.
  - (3) "Sale of Improved Real Property" includes any form of transaction, whether characterized as a lease or otherwise, which in substance is a transfer of title of, or equitable ownership in, improved real property and includes any lease of the property for a term of thirty (30) years or more (with all options for renewal being included as a part of the term). In the case of multiple unit projects, "sale" refers to the sale of the entire project or to the sale of any individual parcel or unit.

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<sup>71</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

- (4) "Partially Improved Residential Real Property", as used in this Section, means any improved real property, as defined in subsection (a)(2) above, being developed for sale to individual homeowners, where the construction of the residence upon such property is not substantially complete at the time of the sale.

(b) Exclusions.

- (1) In cases involving reconstruction contracting, the speculative builder may exclude from gross income the prior value allowed for reconstruction contracting in determining his taxable gross income, as provided by Regulation.
  - (2) Neither the cost nor the fair market value of the land which constitutes part of the improved real property sold may be excluded or deducted from gross income subject to the tax imposed by this Section.
  - (3) (Reserved)
  - (4) A speculative builder may exclude gross income from the sale of partially improved residential real property as defined in (a)(4) above to another speculative builder only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
    - (A) The speculative builder purchasing the partially improved residential real property has a valid City privilege license for construction contracting as a speculative builder; and
    - (B) At the time of the transaction, the purchaser provides the seller with a properly completed written declaration that the purchaser assumes liability for and will pay all privilege taxes which would otherwise be due the City at the time of sale of the partially improved residential real property; and
    - (C) The seller also:
      - (i) Maintains proper records of such transactions in a manner similar to the requirements provided in this chapter relating to sales for resale; and
      - (ii) Retains a copy of the written declaration provided by the buyer for the transaction; and
      - (iii) Is properly licensed with the City as a speculative builder and provides the City with the written declaration attached to the City privilege tax return where he claims the exclusion.
  - (5) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008, the portion of gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the actual direct costs of providing architectural or engineering services that are incorporated in a contract is not subject to tax under this Section. For the purposes of this subsection, "Direct Costs" means the portion of the actual costs that are directly expended in providing architectural or engineering services.<sup>72</sup>
- (c) Tax liability for speculative builders occurs at close of escrow or transfer of title, whichever occurs earlier, and is subject to the following provisions relating to exemptions, deductions and tax credits:

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<sup>72</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008



(1) Exemptions.

- (A) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the purchase of machinery, equipment or other tangible personal property that is exempt from or deductible from privilege or use tax under: <sup>73</sup>
- (i) Section 465, Subsections (g) and (p)
- (ii) Section 660, Subsections (g) and (p)
- Shall be exempt or deductible, respectively, from the tax imposed by this Section.
- (B) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income received from a contract for the construction of an environmentally controlled facility for the raising of poultry for the production of eggs and the sorting, or cooling and packaging of eggs shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>74</sup>
- (C) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from the installation, assembly, repair or maintenance of cleanrooms that are deducted from the tax base of the retail classification pursuant to Section 465, Subsection (g) shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>75</sup>
- (D) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into with a person who is engaged in the commercial production of livestock, livestock products or agricultural, horticultural, viticultural or floricultural crops or products in this state for the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, wrecking or demolition or addition to or subtraction from any building, highway, road, excavation, manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement used directly and primarily to prevent, monitor, control or reduce air, water or land pollution shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>76</sup>
- (E) Development or impact fees included in a construction or development contract for payment to the state or local government to offset governmental costs of providing public infrastructure, public safety and other public services to a development. <sup>77</sup>

(2) Deductions.

- (A) All amounts subject to the tax shall be allowed a deduction in the amount of thirty-five percent (35%).<sup>78</sup>
- (B) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into for the installation, assembly, repair or

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<sup>73</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 1999

<sup>74</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>75</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>76</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>77</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective September 1, 2006

<sup>78</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

maintenance of income -producing capital equipment, as defined in Section 110, that is deducted from the retail classification pursuant to Section 465(g), that does not become a permanent attachment to a building, highway, road, railroad, excavation or manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this section. If the ownership of the realty is separate from the ownership of the income-producing capital equipment, the determination as to permanent attachment shall be made as if the ownership was the same. The deduction provided in this paragraph does not include gross proceeds of sales or gross income from that portion of any contracting activity which consists of the development of, or modification to, real property in order to facilitate the installation, assembly, repair, maintenance or removal of the income-producing capital equipment. For purposes of this paragraph, "permanent attachment" means at least one of the following:<sup>79</sup>

- (i) To be incorporated into real property.
- (ii) To become so affixed to real property that it becomes part of the real property.
- (iii) To be so attached to real property that removal would cause substantial damage to the real property from which it is removed.

- (C) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008 and ending before January 1, 2011, the gross proceeds of sales or gross income derived from a contract to provide and install a solar energy device. The contractor shall register with the Department of Revenue as a solar energy contractor. By registering, the contractor acknowledges that it will make its books and records relating to sales of solar energy devices available to the Department of Revenue and the City, as applicable, for examination.<sup>80</sup>

(3) Tax Credits.

The following tax credits are available to owner-builders or speculative builders, not to exceed the tax liability against which such credits apply, provided such credits are documented to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector:

- (A) A tax credit equal to the amount of City Privilege or Use Tax, or the equivalent excise tax, paid directly to a taxing jurisdiction or as a separately itemized charge paid directly to the vendor with respect to the tangible personal property incorporated into the said structure or improvement to real property undertaken by the owner-builder or speculative builder.
- (B) A tax credit equal to the amount of Privilege Taxes paid to this City, or charged separately to the speculative builder, by a construction contractor, on the gross income derived by said person from the construction of any improvement to the real property.
- (C) No credits provided herein may be claimed until such time that the gross income against which said credits apply is reported.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

<sup>80</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

<sup>81</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

**Sec. 417. Construction contracting: owner-builders who are not speculative builders.**

- (a) At the expiration of twenty-four (24) months after improvement to the property is substantially complete, the tax liability for an owner-builder who is not a speculative builder shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of:
- (1) The gross income from the activity of construction contracting upon the real property in question which was realized by those construction contractors to whom the owner-builder provided written declaration that they were not responsible for the taxes as prescribed in Subsection 415(c)(2); and
  - (2) The purchase of tangible personal property for incorporation into any improvement to real property, computed on the sales price.
- (b) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008, the portion of gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the actual direct costs of providing architectural or engineering services that are incorporated in a contract is not subject to tax under this Section. For the purposes of this subsection, "Direct Costs" means the portion of the actual costs that are directly expended in providing architectural or engineering services.<sup>82</sup>
- (c) The tax liability of this Section is subject to the following provisions relating to exemptions, deductions and tax credits:
- (1) Exemptions
    - (A) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income attributable to the purchase of machinery, equipment or other tangible personal property that is exempt from or deductible from privilege or use tax under:<sup>83</sup>
      - (i) Section 465, Subsections (g) and (p)
      - (ii) Section 660, Subsections (g) and (p)Shall be exempt or deductible, respectively, from the tax imposed by this section.
    - (B) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income received from a contract for the construction of an environmentally controlled facility for the raising of poultry for the production of eggs and the sorting, or cooling and packaging of eggs shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>84</sup>
    - (C) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from the installation, assembly, repair or maintenance of cleanrooms that are deducted from the tax base of the retail classification pursuant to Section 465, Subsection (g) shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>85</sup>
    - (D) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into with a person who is engaged in the commercial production of

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<sup>82</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

<sup>83</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 1999

<sup>84</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>85</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

livestock, livestock products or agricultural, horticultural, viticultural or floricultural crops or products in this state for the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, wrecking or demolition or addition to or subtraction from any building, highway, road, excavation, manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement used directly and primarily to prevent, monitor, control or reduce air, water or land pollution shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>86</sup>

- (E) Development or impact fees included in a construction or development contract for payment to the state or local government to offset governmental costs of providing public infrastructure, public safety and other public services to a development.<sup>87</sup>

(2) Deductions.

- (A) All amounts subject to the tax shall be allowed a deduction in the amount of thirty-five percent (35%).<sup>88</sup>
- (B) The gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is derived from a contract entered into for the installation, assembly, repair or maintenance of income - producing capital equipment, as defined in Section 110, that is deducted from the retail classification pursuant to Section 465(g), that does not become a permanent attachment to a building, highway, road, railroad, excavation or manufactured building or other structure, project, development or improvement shall be deducted from the tax imposed by this Section. If the ownership of the realty is separate from the ownership of the income-producing capital equipment, the determination as to permanent attachment shall be made as if the ownership was the same. The deduction provided in this paragraph does not include gross proceeds of sales or gross income from that portion of any contracting activity which consists of the development of, or modification to, real property in order to facilitate the installation, assembly, repair, maintenance or removal of the income-producing capital equipment. For purposes of this paragraph, "permanent attachment" means at least one of the following:<sup>89</sup>
  - (i) To be incorporated into real property.
  - (ii) To become so affixed to real property that it becomes part of the real property.
  - (iii) To be so attached to real property that removal would cause substantial damage to the real property from which it is removed.
- (C) For taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008 and ending before January 1, 2011, the gross proceeds of sales or gross income derived from a contract to provide and install a solar energy device. The contractor shall register with the Department of Revenue as a solar energy contractor. By registering, the contractor acknowledges that it will make its books and records relating to sales of solar energy devices available to the Department of Revenue and the City, as applicable, for examination.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>87</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective September 1, 2006

<sup>88</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>89</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>90</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

(3) Tax Credits.

The following tax credits are available to owner-builders and speculative builders, not to exceed the tax liability against which such credits apply, provided such credits are documented to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector:<sup>91</sup>

- (A) Tax credit equal to the amount of City Privilege or Use Tax, or the equivalent excise tax, paid directly to a taxing jurisdiction or as a separately itemized charge paid directly to the vendor with respect to the tangible personal property incorporated into the said structure or improvement to real property undertaken by the owner-builder or speculative builder.<sup>92</sup>
- (B) A tax credit equal to the amount of Privilege Taxes paid to this City, or charged separately to the speculative builder, by a construction contractor, on the gross income derived by said person from the construction of any improvement to the real property.<sup>93</sup>
- (C) No credits provided herein may be claimed until such time that the gross income against which said credits apply is reported.<sup>94</sup>
- (d) The limitation period for the assessment of taxes imposed by this Section is measured based upon when such liability is reportable, that is, in the reporting period that encompasses the twenty-fifth (25th) month after said unit or project was substantially complete. Interest and penalties, as provided in Section 540, will be based on reportable date.
- (e) (Reserved)

**Sec. 418. (Reserved)**<sup>95</sup>

**Sec. 420. Feed at wholesale.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of the sale of feed, salt, vitamins, and other additives to feed, to persons engaged in the raising or feeding of livestock or poultry purchased or raised for slaughter, with no deduction for the income derived from the "resale" of such feed.
- (b) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Out-of-City sales.
  - (2) Out-of-State sales.

**Sec. 422. Jet fuel sales.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount of \$.018 cents per gallon sold from the business

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<sup>91</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>92</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>93</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>94</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>95</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of selling jet fuel.

- (1) Gallons sold includes all gallons sold, bartered, exchanged, included as part or whole of a trade-out, or similar transactions regardless of the type or form of payment.
- (2) For purposes of this section the following terms are substitutable in articles iii and v of this chapter, and corresponding regulations:
  - (a) "Gallons" for "gross income"
  - (b) "Gallon(s)" for "amount(s)".
- (b) The burden of proving that a sale of jet fuel is not a taxable sale shall be upon the person who made the sale.
- (c) Except as provided in section 567, when this City and another Arizona City or Town with an equivalent excise tax could claim nexus for taxing a jet fuel sale, the City or Town where the permanent business location of the seller at which the order was received shall be deemed to have precedence, and for the purposes of this chapter such City or Town has sole and exclusive right to such tax.
- (d) The appropriate tax liability for any jet fuel sale where the order is received at a permanent business location of the seller located in this City or in an Arizona City or Town that levies an equivalent excise tax shall be at the rate of the City or Town of such seller's location.
- (e) Exemptions. Notwithstanding section 400(d), the exemptions in section 465(a), (b) and (d) through (z) will apply to sales of jet fuel taxed under this section.

#### **Sec. 425. Job printing.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of job printing, which includes engraving of printing plates, embossing, copying, micrographics, and photo reproduction.
- (b) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Job printing purchased for the purpose of resale by the purchaser in the form supplied by the job printer.
  - (2) Out-of-City sales.
  - (3) Out-of-State sales.
  - (4) Job printing of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals or publications for a person who is subject to the tax imposed by subsection 435(a) or an equivalent excise tax; provided further that said person is properly licensed by the taxing jurisdiction at the location of publication.
  - (5) Sales of job printing to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except where the property sold is for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term

is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.<sup>96</sup>

(6) (Reserved)<sup>97</sup>

**Sec. 427. Manufactured buildings.<sup>98</sup>**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income, including site preparation, moving to the site, and/or set-up, upon every person engaging or continuing in the business activity of selling manufactured buildings within the City. Such business activity is deemed to occur at the business location of the seller where the purchaser first entered into the contract to purchase the manufactured building.
- (b) Sales of used manufactured buildings are not taxable.
- (c) The sale prices of furniture, furnishings, fixtures, appliances, and attachments that are not incorporated as component parts of or attached to a manufactured building are exempt from the tax imposed by this Section. Sales of such items are subject to the tax under Section 460.
- (d) Under this Section, a trade-in will not be allowed for the purpose of reducing the tax liability.

**Sec. 430. Timbering and other extraction.<sup>99</sup>**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the following businesses:
  - (1) Felling, producing, or preparing timber or any product of the forest for sale, profit, or commercial use.
  - (2) Extracting, refining, or producing any oil or natural gas for sale, profit, or commercial use.
- (b) The rate specified in subsection (a) above shall be applied to the value of the entire product extracted, refined, produced, or prepared for sale, profit, or commercial use, when such activity occurs within the City, regardless of the place of sale of the product or the fact that delivery may be made to a point without the City or without the State.
- (c) If any person engaging in any business classified in this Section ships or transports products, or any part thereof, out of the State without making sale of such products, or ships his products outside of the State in an unfinished condition, the value of the products or articles in the condition or form in which they existed when transported out-of-State and before they enter interstate commerce shall be the basis for assessment of the tax imposed by this Section.
- (d) (Reserved)

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<sup>96</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>97</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>98</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>99</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

**Sec. 432. Mining.<sup>100</sup>**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one tenth of one percent (.1%), not to exceed one tenth of one percent, of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of mining, smelting, or producing for sale, profit, or commercial use any copper, gold, silver, or other mineral product, compound, or combination of mineral products; but not including the extraction, removal, or production of sand, gravel, or rock from the ground for sale, profit, or commercial use.
- (b) The rate specified in subsection (a) above shall be applied to the value of the entire product mined, smelted or produced for sale, profit, or commercial use, when such activity occurs within the City, regardless of the place of sale of the product or the fact that delivery may be made to a point without the City or without the State.
- (c) If any person engaging in any business classified in this Section ships or transports products, or any part thereof, out of the State without making sale of such products, or ships his products outside of the State in an unfinished condition, the value of the products or articles in the condition or form in which they existed when transported out-of-State and before they enter interstate commerce shall be the basis for assessment of the tax imposed by this Section.

**Sec. 435. Publishing and periodicals distribution.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business activity of:
  - (1) Publication of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals when published within the City, measured by the gross income derived from notices, subscriptions, and local advertising as defined in Section 405. In cases where the location of publication is both within and without this State, gross income subject to the tax shall refer only to gross income derived from residents of this State or generated by permanent business locations within this State.
  - (2) Distribution or delivery within the City of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals not published within the City, measured by the gross income derived from subscriptions.
- (b) "Location of Publication" is determined by:
  - (1) Location of the editorial offices of the publisher, when the physical printing is not performed by the publisher; or
  - (2) Location of either the editorial offices or the printing facilities, if the publisher performs his own physical printing.
- (c) "Subscription income" shall include all circulation revenue of the publisher except amounts retained by or credited to carriers or other vendors as compensation for delivery within the State by such carriers or vendors, and further except sales of published items, directly or through distributors, for the purpose of resale, to retailers subject to the Privilege Tax on such resale.

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<sup>100</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995



- (d) "Circulation", for the purpose of measurement of gross income subject to the tax, shall be considered to occur at the place of delivery of the published items to the subscriber or intended reader irrespective of the location of the physical facilities or personnel of the publisher. However, delivery by the United States mails shall be considered to have occurred at the location of publication.
- (e) Allocation of taxes between cities and towns. In cases where publication or distribution occurs in more than one city or town, the measurement of gross income subject to tax by the City shall include:
  - (1) That portion of the gross income from publication which reflects the ratio of circulation within this City to circulation in all incorporated cities and towns in this State having substantially similar provisions; plus
  - (2) Only when publication occurs within the City, that portion of the remaining gross income from publication which reflects the ratio of circulation within this City to the total circulation of all incorporated cities or towns in this State within which cities the taxpayer maintains a location of publication.
- (f) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of newspapers, magazines or other periodicals to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when the property sold is for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.<sup>101</sup>

#### **Sec. 440. (Reserved)**

#### **Sec. 444. Hotels.**

The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of operating a hotel charging for lodging and/or lodging space furnished to any:

- (a) Person.
- (b) Exclusions. The tax imposed by this Section shall not include: <sup>102</sup>
  - (1) Income derived from incarcerating or detaining prisoners who are under the jurisdiction of the United States, this State or any other state or a political subdivision of this State or of any other state in a privately operated prison, jail or detention facility.
  - (2) Gross proceeds of sales or gross income that is property included in another business activity under this Article and that is taxable to the person engaged in that business activity, but the gross proceeds of sales or gross income to be deducted shall not exceed the consideration paid to the person conducting the activity.
  - (3) Gross proceeds of sales or gross income from transactions or activities that are not limited to transients and that would not be taxable if engaged in by a person not subject to tax under this Article.

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<sup>101</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>102</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

- (4) Gross proceeds of sales or gross income from transactions or activities that are not limited to transients and that would not be taxable if engaged in by a person subject to taxation under Section 410 or Section 475 due to an exclusion, exemption or deduction.
- (5) Gross proceeds of sales or gross income from commissions received from a person providing services or property to the customers of the hotel. However, such commissions may be subject to tax under Section 445 or Section 450 as rental, leasing or licensing for use of real or tangible personal property.
- (6) Income from providing telephone, fax or Internet services to customers at an additional charge, that is separately stated to the customer and is separately maintained in the hotel's books and records. However, such gross proceeds of sales or gross income may be subject to tax under Section 470 as telecommunication services.

**Sec. 445. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of real property.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of leasing, or renting real property located within the City for a consideration, to the tenant in actual possession, or the licensing for use of real property to the final licensee located within the City for a consideration including any improvements, rights, or interest in such property; provided further that:<sup>103</sup>
  - (1) Payments made by the lessee to, or on behalf of, the lessor for property taxes, repairs, or improvements are considered to be part of the taxable gross income.
  - (2) Charges for such items as telecommunications, utilities, pet fees, or maintenance are considered to be part of the taxable gross income.
  - (3) However, if the lessor engages in telecommunication activity, as evidenced by installing individual metering equipment and by billing each tenant based upon actual usage, such activity is taxable under Section 470.
- (b) If individual utility meters have been installed for each tenant and the lessor separately charges each single tenant for the exact billing from the utility company, such charges are exempt.
- (c) Charges by a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization to patients of such facilities for use of rooms or other real property during the course of their treatment by such facilities are exempt.<sup>104</sup>
- (d) Charges for joint pole usage by a person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services to another person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services are exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.
- (e) (Reserved)
- (f) A person who has less than three (3) apartments, houses, trailer spaces, or other lodging spaces rented, leased or licensed or available for rent, lease, or license within the State

<sup>103</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>104</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

and no units of commercial property for rent, lease, or license within the State, is not deemed to be in the rental business, and is therefore exempt from the tax imposed by this Section on such income. However, a person who has one (1) or more units of commercial property is subject to the tax imposed by this Section on rental, lease and license income from all such lodging spaces and commercial units of real estate even though said person may have fewer than three (3) lodging spaces.<sup>105</sup>

- (g) (Reserved)
- (h) (Reserved)
- (i) Exempt from the tax imposed by this Section is gross income derived from the rental, leasing, or licensing of real property to a corporation; provided that the lessor's aggregate holdings in the lessee corporation amount to at least eighty percent (80%) of the voting stock of the lessee corporation.
- (j) Exempt from the tax imposed by this Section is gross income derived from the activities taxable under Section 444 of this code.
- (k) (Reserved)
- (l) (Reserved)
- (m) (Reserved)
- (n) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 200(b), the fair market value of one (1) apartment, in an apartment complex provided rent free to an employee of the apartment complex is not subject to the tax imposed by this Section. For an apartment complex with more than fifty (50) units, an additional apartment provided rent free to an employee for every additional fifty (50) units is not subject to the tax imposed by this Section.<sup>106</sup>
- (o) Income derived from incarcerating or detaining prisoners who are under the jurisdiction of the United States, this state or any other state or a political subdivision of this state or of any other state in a privately operated prison, jail or detention facility is exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.<sup>107</sup>
- (p) Charges by any hospital, any licensed nursing care institution, or any kidney dialysis facility to patients of such facilities for the use of rooms or other real property during the course of their treatment by such facilities are exempt.<sup>108</sup>
- (q) Charges to patients receiving "personal care" or "directed care" by any licensed assisted living facility, licensed assisted living center or licensed assisted living home as defined and licensed pursuant to Chapter 4 Title 36 Arizona Revised Statutes and Title 9 of the Arizona Administrative Code are exempt.<sup>109</sup>
- (r) Income received from the rental of any "low-income unit" as established under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, including the low-income housing credit provided by IRC Section 42, to the extent that the collection of tax on rental income causes the "gross rent" defined by IRC Section 42 to exceed the income limitation for the low-income unit is

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<sup>105</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>106</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>107</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>108</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

<sup>109</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

exempt. This exemption also applies to income received from the rental of individual rental units subject to statutory or regulatory “low-income unit” rent restrictions similar to IRC Section 42 to the extent that the collection of tax from the tenant causes the rental receipts to exceed a rent restriction for the low-income unit. This subsection also applies to rent received by a person other than the owner or lessor of the low-income unit, including a broker. This subsection does not apply unless a taxpayer maintains the documentation to support the qualification of a unit as a low-income unit, the “gross rent” limitation for the unit and the rent received from that unit.<sup>110</sup>

**Sec. 446. (Reserved)**

**Sec. 447. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of real property: additional tax upon transient lodging.**

In addition to the taxes levied as provided in Section 444, there is hereby levied and shall be collected an additional tax in an amount equal to three percent (3%) of the gross income from the business activity of any hotel engaging or continuing within the City in the business of charging for lodging and/or lodging space furnished to any transient. 80% (eighty per cent) of the revenue derived from this additional tax imposed in this section shall be used for hospitality development, including destination and event promotion, visitor related capital projects and visitor research.<sup>111 112</sup>

**Sec. 450. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of tangible personal property.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of leasing, licensing for use, or renting tangible personal property for a consideration, including that which is semi-permanently or permanently installed within the City as provided by Regulation.
- (b) Special provisions relating to long-term motor vehicle leases. A lease transaction involving a motor vehicle for a minimum period of twenty-four (24) months shall be considered to have occurred at the location of the motor vehicle dealership, rather than the location of the place of business of the lessor, even if the lessor's interest in the lease and its proceeds are sold, transferred, or otherwise assigned to a lease financing institution; provided further that the city or town where such motor vehicle dealership is located levies a Privilege Tax or an equivalent excise tax upon the transaction.
- (c) Gross income derived from the following transactions shall be exempt from Privilege Taxes imposed by this Section:
  - (1) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property to persons engaged or continuing in the business of leasing, licensing for use, or rental of such property.
  - (2) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property that is semi-permanently or permanently installed within another city or town that levies an equivalent excise tax on the transaction.

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<sup>110</sup> Amended Ordinance 3683 Effective July 1, 2006

<sup>111</sup> Amended Ordinance 3576 Effective June 17, 2004

<sup>112</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

- (3) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of film, tape, or slides to a theater or other person taxed under Section 410, or to a radio station, television station, or subscription television system.

- (4) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of the following:

- (A) Prosthetics.
- (B) Income-producing capital equipment.
- (C) Mining and metallurgical supplies.

These exemptions include the rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property which, if it had been purchased instead of leased, rented, or licensed by the lessee or licensee, would qualify as income-producing capital equipment or mining and metallurgical supplies.<sup>113</sup>

- (5) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when the property so rented, leased, or licensed is for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512 or rental, leasing or licensing for use of tangible personal property in this state by a non-profit charitable organization that has qualified under Section 501(C)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and that engages in and uses such property exclusively for training, job placement or rehabilitation programs or testing for mentally or physically handicapped persons.<sup>114</sup>
- (6) Separately billed charges for delivery, installation, repair, and/or maintenance as provided by Regulation.
- (7) Charges for joint pole usage by a person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services to another person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services.
- (8) The gross income from coin-operated washing, drying, and dry cleaning machines, or from coin-operated car washing machines. This exemption shall not apply to suppliers or distributors renting, leasing, or licensing for use of such equipment to persons engaged in the operation of coin-operated washing, drying, dry cleaning, or car washing establishments.
- (9) Rental, leasing, or licensing of aircraft that would qualify as aircraft acquired for use outside the State, as prescribed by Regulation, if such rental, leasing, or licensing had been a sale.<sup>115</sup>
- (10) Rental, leasing or licensing for use an alternative fuel vehicle if such vehicle was manufactured as a diesel fuel vehicle and converted to operate on alternative fuel and equipment that is installed in a conventional diesel fuel motor vehicle to convert the vehicle to operate on an alternative fuel, as defined in A.R.S. Section 1-215.<sup>116 117</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

<sup>114</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>115</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

<sup>116</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>117</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

**Sec. 452. (Reserved)**

**Sec. 455. Restaurants and Bars.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of preparing or serving food or beverage in a bar, cocktail lounge, restaurant, or similar establishment where articles of food or drink are prepared or served for consumption on or off the premises, including also the activity of catering. Cover charges and minimum charges must be included in the gross income of this business activity.
- (b) Caterers and other taxpayers subject to the tax who deliver food and/or serve such food off premises shall also be allowed to exclude separately charged delivery, set-up, and clean-up charges, provided that the charges are also maintained separately in the books and records. When a taxpayer delivers food and/or serves such food off premises, his regular business location shall still be deemed the location of the transaction for the purposes of the tax imposed by this Section.
- (c) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when sold for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.<sup>118</sup>
- (d) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of food, beverages, condiments and accessories used for serving food and beverages to a commercial airline, as defined in A.R.S. § 42-5061(A)(49), that serves the food and beverages to its passengers, without additional charge, for consumption in flight.<sup>119 120</sup>
- (e) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of prepared food, beverages, condiments or accessories to a public educational entity, pursuant to any of the provisions of Title 15, Arizona Revised Statutes, to the extent such items are to be prepared or served to individuals for consumption on the premises of a public educational entity during school hours.<sup>121</sup>
- (f) For the purposes of this Section, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food.<sup>122</sup>

**Sec. 460. Retail sales: measure of tax; burden of proof; exclusions.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail.
- (b) The burden of proving that a sale of tangible personal property is not a taxable retail sale shall be upon the person who made the sale.

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<sup>118</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>119</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>120</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>121</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>122</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

- (c) Exclusions. For the purposes of this Chapter, sales of tangible personal property shall not include:
- (1) Sales of stocks, bonds, options, or other similar materials.
  - (2) Sales of lottery tickets or shares pursuant to Article I, Chapter 5, Title 5, Arizona Revised Statutes.
  - (3) Sales of platinum, bullion, or monetized bullion, except minted or manufactured coins transferred or acquired primarily for their numismatic value as prescribed by Regulation.
  - (4) Gross income derived from the transfer of tangible personal property which is specifically included as the gross income of a business activity upon which another Section of this Article imposes a tax, shall be considered gross income of that business activity, and are not includable as gross income subject to the tax imposed by this Section.
  - (5) Sales by professional or personal service occupations where such sales are inconsequential elements of the service provided.
- (d) (Reserved)
- (e) When this City and another Arizona city or town with an equivalent excise tax could claim nexus for taxing a retail sale, the city or town where the permanent business location of the seller at which the order was received shall be deemed to have precedence, and for the purposes of this Chapter such city or town has sole and exclusive right to such tax.<sup>123</sup>
- (f) The appropriate tax liability for any retail sale where the order is received at a permanent business location of the seller located in this City or in an Arizona city or town that levies an equivalent excise tax shall be at the tax rate of the city or town of such seller's location.
- (g) Retail sales of prepaid calling cards or prepaid authorization numbers for telecommunications services, including sales of reauthorization of a prepaid card or authorization number are subject to tax under this Section.<sup>124</sup>

**Sec. 465. Retail sales: exemptions.**

Income derived from the following sources is exempt from the tax imposed by Section 460:

- (a) Sales of tangible personal property to a person regularly engaged in the business of selling such property.
- (b) Out-of-City sales or out-of-State sales.<sup>125</sup>
- (c) Charges for delivery, installation, or other direct customer services as prescribed by Regulation.

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<sup>123</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>124</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>125</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995



- (d) Charges for repair services as prescribed by Regulation, when separately charged and separately maintained in the books and records of the taxpayer.
- (e) Sales of warranty, maintenance, and service contracts, when separately charged and separately maintained in the books and records of the taxpayer.
- (f) Sales of prosthetics.
- (g) Sales of income-producing capital equipment.
- (h) Sales of rental equipment and rental supplies.
- (i) Sales of mining and metallurgical supplies.
- (j) Sales of motor vehicle fuel and use fuel which are subject to a tax imposed under the provisions of Article I or II, Chapter 16, Title 28, Arizona Revised Statutes; or sales of use fuel to a holder of a valid single trip use fuel tax permit issued under A.R.S. Section § 28-5739, or sales of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas used to propel a motor vehicle.<sup>126 127</sup>
- (k) Sales of tangible personal property to a construction contractor who holds a valid Privilege Tax License for engaging or continuing in the business of construction contracting where the tangible personal property sold is incorporated into any structure or improvement to real property as part of construction contracting activity.
- (l) Sales of motor vehicles to nonresidents of this State for use outside this State if the vendor ships or delivers the motor vehicle to a destination outside this State.<sup>128</sup>
- (m) Sales of tangible personal property which directly enters into and becomes an ingredient or component part of a product sold in the regular course of the business of job printing, manufacturing, or publication of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals. Tangible personal property which is consumed or used up in a manufacturing, job printing, publishing, or production process is not an ingredient nor component part of a product.
- (n) Sales made directly to the Federal Government to the extent of:
  - (1) One hundred percent (100%) of the gross income derived from retail sales made by a manufacturer, modifier, assembler, or repairer.
  - (2) Fifty percent (50%) of the gross income derived from retail sales made by any other person.
- (o) Sales to hotels, bars, restaurants, dining cars, lunchrooms, boarding houses, or similar establishments of articles consumed as food, drink, or condiment, whether simple, mixed, or compounded, where such articles are customarily prepared or served to patrons for consumption on or off the premises, where the purchaser is properly licensed and paying a tax under Section 455 or the equivalent excise tax upon such income.
- (p) Sales of tangible personal property to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when the property sold is for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is

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<sup>126</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>127</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>128</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective July 20, 1996

defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512 or sales of tangible personal property purchased in this state by a non-profit charitable organization that has qualified under Section 501(C)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and that engages in and uses such property exclusively for training, job placement or rehabilitation programs or testing for mentally or physically handicapped persons.<sup>129</sup>

- (q) Food purchased with food stamps provided through the Food Stamp Program established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113; 91 Stat. 958.7 U.S.C. Section 2011 Et Seq.) or purchased with food instruments issued under Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (P.L. 95-627; 92 Stat. 3603; and P.L. 99-669; Section 4302; 42 United States Code Section 1786<sup>130</sup>), but only to the extent that food stamps or food instruments were actually used to purchase such food.
- (r) Sales of the following to persons engaging or continuing in the business of farming, ranching, or feeding livestock, poultry or ratites:<sup>131</sup>
  - (1) Seed, fertilizer, fungicides, seed treating chemicals, and other similar chemicals.
  - (2) Feed for livestock, poultry or ratites, including salt, vitamins, and other additives to such feed.
  - (3) Livestock, poultry or ratites purchased or raised for slaughter, but not including livestock purchased or raised for production or use, such as milch cows, breeding bulls, laying hens, riding or work horses.
  - (4) Neat animals, horses, asses, sheep, swine, or goats for the purpose of becoming breeding or production stock, including sales of breedings or ownership shares in such animals.

This exemption shall not be construed to include machinery, equipment, fuels, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, repair and replacement parts, or other items used or consumed in the running, maintenance, or repair of machinery, equipment, buildings, or structures used or consumed in the business of farming, ranching, or feeding of livestock, poultry or ratites.

- (s) Sales of groundwater measuring devices required by A.R.S. Section § 45-604.
- (t) (Reserved)
- (u) Sales of aircraft acquired for use outside the State, as prescribed by Regulation.<sup>132</sup>
- (v) Sales of food products by producers as provided for by A.R.S. Sections § 3-561, 3-562 and 3-563.<sup>133</sup>
- (w) (Reserved)
- (x) (Reserved)
- (y) (Reserved)

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<sup>129</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>130</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>131</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>132</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

<sup>133</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (z) (Reserved)
- (aa) The sale of tangible personal property used in remediation contracting as defined in Section 100 and Regulation 100.5. <sup>134</sup>
- (bb) Sales of materials that are purchased by or for publicly funded libraries including school district libraries, charter school libraries, community college libraries, state university libraries or federal, state, county or municipal libraries for use by the public as follows:
- (1) Printed or photographic materials.
- (2) Electronic or digital media materials. <sup>135</sup>
- (cc) Sales of food, beverages, condiments and accessories used for serving food and beverages to a commercial airline, as defined in A.R.S. § 42-5061(A)(49), that serves the food and beverages to its passengers, without additional charge, for consumption in flight. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food. <sup>136 137</sup>
- (dd) In computing the tax base in the case of the sale or transfer of wireless telecommunication equipment as an inducement to a customer to enter into or continue a contract for telecommunication services that are taxable under Section 470, gross proceeds of sales or gross income does not include any sales commissions or other compensation received by the retailer as a result of the customer entering into or continuing a contract for the telecommunications services. <sup>138</sup>
- (ee) For the purposes of this section, a sale of wireless telecommunication equipment to a person who holds the equipment for sale or transfer to a customer as an inducement to enter into or continue a contract for telecommunication services that are taxable under Section 470 is considered to be a sale for resale in the regular course of business. <sup>139</sup>
- (ff) Sales of alternative fuel as defined in A.R.S. § 1-215, to a used oil fuel burner who has received a Department of Environmental Quality permit to burn used oil or used oil fuel under A.R.S. § 49-426 or § 49-480. <sup>140</sup>
- (gg) Sales of food, beverages, condiments and accessories to a public educational entity, pursuant to any of the provisions of Title 15, Arizona Revised Statutes; to the extent such items are to be prepared or served to individuals for consumption on the premises of a public educational entity during school hours. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food. <sup>141</sup>
- (hh) Sales of personal hygiene items to a person engaged in the business of and subject to tax under Section 444 of this code if the tangible personal property is furnished without

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<sup>134</sup> Amended Ordinance 3091 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

<sup>135</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>136</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>137</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>138</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>139</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>140</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>141</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

additional charge to and intended to be consumed by the person during his occupancy.<sup>142</sup>

- (ii) For the purposes of this Section, the diversion of gas from a pipeline by a person engaged in the business of operating a natural or artificial gas pipeline for the sole purpose of fueling compressor equipment to pressurize the pipeline, is not a sale of the gas to the operator of the pipeline.<sup>143</sup>
- (jj) Sales of food, beverages, condiments and accessories to a non-profit charitable organization that has qualified as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) and regularly serves meals to the needy and indigent on a continuing basis at no cost. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food.<sup>144</sup>
- (kk) Sales of motor vehicles that use alternative fuel if such vehicle was manufactured as a diesel fuel vehicle and converted to operate on alternative fuel and sales of equipment that is installed in a conventional diesel fuel motor vehicle to convert the vehicle to operate on an alternative fuel, as defined in A.R.S. Section 1-215.<sup>145 146</sup>
- (ll) Sales of solar energy devices, for taxable periods beginning from and after July 1, 2008. The retailer shall register with the Department of Revenue as a solar energy retailer. By registering, the retailer acknowledges that it will make its books and records relating to sales of solar energy devices available to the Department of Revenue and City, as applicable for examination.<sup>147</sup>

#### **Sec. 470. Telecommunication services.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of providing telecommunication services to consumers within this City.
  - (1) Telecommunication services shall include:
    - (A) Two-way voice, sound, and/or video communication over a communications channel.
    - (B) One-way voice, sound, and/or video transmission or relay over a communications channel.
    - (C) Facsimile transmissions.
    - (D) Providing relay or repeater service.
    - (E) Providing computer interface services over a communications channel.
    - (F) Time-sharing activities with a computer accomplished through the use of a communications channel.

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<sup>142</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>143</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>144</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>145</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>146</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>147</sup> Amended Ordinance 3780 Effective July 1, 2008

- (2) Gross income from the business activity of providing telecommunication services to consumers within this City shall include:

- (A) All fees for connection to a telecommunication system.
- (B) Toll charges, charges for transmissions, and charges for other telecommunications services; provided that such charges relate to transmissions originating in the City and terminating in this State.
- (C) Fees charged for access to or subscription to or membership in a telecommunication system or network.
- (D) Charges for monitoring services relating to a security or burglar alarm system located within the City where such system transmits or receives signals or data over a communications channel.
- (E) Charges for telephone, fax or Internet access services provided at an additional charge by a hotel business subject to taxation under Section 444.

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- (b) Resale telecommunication services. Gross income from sales of telecommunication services to another provider of telecommunication services for the purpose of providing the purchaser's customers with such service shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this Section; provided, however, that such purchaser is properly licensed by the City to engage in such business.
- (c) Interstate transmissions. Charges by a provider of telecommunication services for transmissions originating in the City and terminating outside the State are exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.
- (d) (Reserved)
- (e) (Reserved)
- (f) Prepaid calling cards. Telecommunications services purchased with a prepaid calling card that are taxable under Section 460 are exempt from the tax imposed under this Section.<sup>149</sup>
- (g) Internet access services. The gross income subject to tax under this Section shall not include sales of internet access services to the person's subscribers and customers. For the purposes of this paragraph: <sup>150</sup>
  - (1) "Internet" means the computer and telecommunications facilities that comprise the interconnected worldwide network of networks that employ the transmission control protocol or internet protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocol, to communicate information of all kinds by wire or radio.
  - (2) "Internet Access" means a service that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail or other services over the internet. Internet access does not include telecommunication services provided by a common carrier.

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<sup>148</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>149</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>150</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

## **Sec. 475. Transporting for hire**

The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of providing the following forms of transportation for hire from this City to another point within the State:

- (a) Transporting of persons or property by railroad; provided, however, that the tax imposed by this subsection shall not apply to transporting freight or property for hire by a railroad operating exclusively in this state if the transportation comprises a portion of a single shipment of freight or property, involving more than one railroad, either from a point in this state to a point outside this state or from a point outside this state to a point in this state. For purposes of this paragraph, “a single shipment” means the transportation that begins at the point at which one of the railroads first takes possession of the freight or property and continues until the point at which one of the railroads relinquishes possession of the freight or property to a party other than one of the railroads.<sup>151</sup>
- (b) Transporting of oil or natural or artificial gas through pipe or conduit.
- (c) Transporting of property by aircraft.
- (d) (Reserved)
  - (1) (Reserved)
  - (2) (Reserved)
  - (3) (Reserved)
  - (4) (Reserved)
- (e) Deductions or Exemptions. The gross proceeds of sales or gross income derived from the following sources is exempt from the tax imposed by this Section: <sup>152</sup>
  - (1) Income that is specifically included as the gross income of a business activity upon which another Section of Article IV imposes a tax, that is separately stated to the customer and is taxable to the person engaged in that classification not to exceed consideration paid to the person conducting the activity.
  - (2) Income from arranging amusement or transportation when the amusement or transportation is conducted by another person not to exceed consideration paid to the amusement or transportation business.
- (f) The tax imposed by this Section shall not include arranging transportation as a convenience to a person’s customers if that person is not otherwise engaged in the business of transporting persons, freight or property for hire. This exception does not apply to businesses that dispatch vehicles pursuant to customer orders and send the billings and receive the payments associated with that activity, including when the transportation is performed by third party independent contractors. For the purposes of this paragraph, “arranging” includes billing for or collecting transportation charges from

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<sup>151</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>152</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

a person's customers on behalf of the persons providing the transportation.<sup>153</sup>

**Sec. 480. Utility services.**

- (a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of producing, providing, or furnishing utility services, including electricity, electric lights, current, power, gas (natural or artificial), or water to:
  - (1) Consumers or ratepayers who reside within the City.
  - (2) (Reserved)
- (b) Exclusion of certain sales of natural gas to a public utility. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) above, the gross income derived from the sale of natural gas to a public utility for the purpose of generation of power to be transferred by the utility to its ratepayers shall be considered a retail sale of tangible personal property subject to Sections 460 and 465, and not considered gross income taxable under this Section.
- (c) Resale utility services. Sales of utility services to another provider of the same utility services for the purpose of providing such utility services either to another properly licensed utility provider or directly to such purchaser's customers or ratepayers shall be exempt and deductible from the gross income subject to the tax imposed by this Section, provided that the purchaser is properly licensed by all applicable taxing jurisdictions to engage or continue in the business of providing utility services, and further provided that the seller maintains proper documentation, in a manner similar to that for sales for resale, of such transactions.
- (d) Tax credit offset for franchise fees. There shall be allowed as an offset any franchise fees paid to the City pursuant to the terms of a franchise agreement. However, such offset shall not be allowed against taxes imposed by any other Section of this Chapter. Such offsets shall not be deemed in conflict with or violation of subsection 400(b).<sup>154</sup>
- (e) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of utility services to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when sold for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.<sup>155</sup>
- (f) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas used to propel a motor vehicle.<sup>156</sup>
- (g) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to:<sup>157</sup>
  - (1) Revenues received by a municipally owned utility in the form of fees charged to persons constructing residential, commercial or industrial developments or connecting residential, commercial or industrial developments to a municipal utility system or systems if the fees are segregated and used only for capital expansion, system enlargement or debt service of the utility system or systems.

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<sup>153</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>154</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>155</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>156</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>157</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (2) Revenues received by any person or persons owning a utility system in the form of reimbursement or contribution compensation for property and equipment installed to provide utility access to, on or across the land of an actual utility consumer if the property and equipment become the property of the utility. This exclusion shall not exceed the value of such property and equipment.
- (h) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to sales of alternative fuel as defined in A.R.S. § 1-215, to a used oil fuel burner who has received a Department of Environmental Quality permit to burn used oil or used oil fuel under A.R.S. § 49-426 or § 49-480. <sup>158</sup>

**Sec. 485. Wastewater Removal Services**<sup>159</sup>

- (a) The tax rate shall be an amount equal to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of providing wastewater removal services from premises, locations, or facilities located within the city limits of Scottsdale by means of sewer lines or similar pipelines.
- (b) The tax imposed by this Section shall not apply to gross income relating to the providing of wastewater removal services from a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization. <sup>160</sup>

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<sup>158</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>159</sup> Amended Ordinance 2560 Effective July 1, 1993

<sup>160</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998



## Article V - Administration

### **Sec. 500. Administration of this Chapter; rule making.**

- (a) The administration of this Chapter is vested in the Tax Collector, except as otherwise specifically provided, and all payments shall be made to the Tax Collector.
- (b) The Tax Collector shall prescribe the forms and procedures necessary for the administration of the taxes imposed by this Chapter.
- (c) Except as provided in this Section, no rule or regulation shall be adopted until approved by formal action of the City Council.
- (d) (Reserved)<sup>161</sup>
- (e) The Unified Audit Committee shall publish uniform guidelines that interpret the Model City Tax Code and that apply to all cities and towns that have adopted the Model City Tax Code as Provided by A.R.S. § 42-6005.<sup>162</sup>
  - (1) Prior to finalization of uniform guidelines that interpret the Model City Tax Code, the Unified Audit Committee shall disseminate draft guidelines for public comment.
  - (2) Pursuant to A.R.S. 42-6005(D), when the State statutes and the Model City Tax Code are the same and where the Arizona Department of Revenue has issued written guidance, the Department's interpretation is binding on cities and towns.

### **Sec. 510. Divulging of information prohibited; exceptions allowing disclosure.**

- (a) Except as specifically provided, it shall be unlawful for any official or employee of the City to make known information obtained pursuant to this Chapter concerning the business financial affairs or operations of any person.
- (b) The City Council may authorize an examination of any return or audit of a specific taxpayer made pursuant to this Chapter by authorized agents of the Federal Government, the State of Arizona, or any political subdivisions.
- (c) The Tax Collector may provide to an Arizona county, city, or town any information concerning any taxes imposed in this Chapter relative to the taxing ordinances of that county, city, or town.
- (d) Successors, receivers, trustees, personal representatives, executors, guardians, administrators, and assignees, if directly interested, may be given information by the Tax Collector as to the items included in the measure and amounts of any unpaid tax, interest, and penalties required to be paid.
- (e) Upon a written direction by the City Attorney or other legal advisor to the City designated by the City Council, officials or employees of the City may divulge the amount and source of income, profits, leases, or expenditures disclosed in any return or report, and the amount of such delinquent and unpaid tax, penalty, or interest, to a private

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<sup>161</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>162</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

collection agency having a written collection agreement with the City.

- (f) The Tax Collector shall provide information to appropriate representatives of any Arizona city or town to comply with the provisions of A.R.S. Section 42-6003, A.R.S. Section 42-6005, and A.R.S. Section 6056.<sup>163</sup>
- (g) The Tax Collector may provide information to authorized agents of any other Arizona governmental agency involving the allocation of taxes imposed by Section 435 upon publishing and distribution of periodicals.
- (h) The Tax Collector may provide information regarding the enforcement and collection of taxes imposed by this Chapter to any governmental agency with which the City has an agreement.

**Sec. 515. Duties of the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer.<sup>164</sup>**

- (a) The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer shall assist taxpayers in:
  - (1) Obtaining easily understandable tax information and information on audits, corrections and appeals procedures of the City.
  - (2) Answering questions regarding preparing and filing the returns required under this Chapter.
  - (3) Locating documents filed with or payments submitted to the Tax Collector by the taxpayer.
- (b) The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer shall also:
  - (1) Receive and evaluate complaints of improper, abusive or inefficient service by the Tax Collector or any of his designees, employees, or agents and recommend to the City Manager or, for a City without a City Manager, the Chief Administrative Officer appropriate action to correct such service.
  - (2) Identify policies and practices of the Tax Collector or any of his designees, employees, or agents that might be barriers to the equitable treatment of taxpayers and recommend alternatives to the City Manager or, for a City without a City Manager, the Chief Administrative Officer.
  - (3) Provide expeditious service to taxpayers whose problems are not resolved through normal channels.
  - (4) Negotiate with the Tax Collector, his designees, employees, or agents to resolve the most complex and sensitive taxpayer problems.
  - (5) Take action to stop or prohibit the Tax Collector from taking an action against a taxpayer.
  - (6) Participate and present taxpayers' interests and concerns in meetings formulating the City's policies and procedures under and interpretation of this Chapter.
  - (7) Compile data each year on the number and type of taxpayer complaints and

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<sup>163</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>164</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

evaluate the actions taken to resolve those complaints.

- (8) Survey taxpayers each year to obtain their evaluation of the quality of service provided by the Tax Collector, his designees, employees, and agents.
  - (9) Perform other functions which relate to taxpayer assistance as prescribed by the City Manager or, for a City without a City Manager, the Chief Administrative Officer.
- (c) Actions taken by the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer may be reviewed and/or modified only by the City Manager or, for a City without a City Manager, the Chief Administrative Officer upon request of the Tax Collector or a taxpayer.
- (d) The Mayor and Council of the City shall be provided with a report quarterly which identifies:
- (1) Any complaints of improper, abusive or inefficient service received by the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer since the date of the last report.
  - (2) Any recommendations made, action taken or surveys obtained by the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer pursuant to subsection (b)(1)-(9), above, since the date of the last report.

**Sec. 516. Taxpayer Assistance Orders.<sup>165</sup>**

- (a) The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer, with or without a formal written request from a taxpayer, may issue a Taxpayer Assistance Order that suspends or stays an action or proposed action by the Tax Collector if, in the Problem Resolution Officer's determination, a taxpayer is suffering or will suffer a significant hardship due to the manner in which the Tax Collector is administering the tax laws.
- (b) A Taxpayer Assistance Order may require the Tax Collector to release any lien perfected under this Chapter, or cease any action or refrain from taking any action to enforce against the taxpayer any Section of this Chapter pending resolution of the issue giving rise to the Taxpayer Assistance Order.
- (c) The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer, City Manager or, for a City without a City Manager, the Chief Administrative Officer may modify, reverse or rescind a Taxpayer Assistance Order. A Taxpayer Assistance Order is binding on the Tax Collector until it is reversed or rescinded.
- (d) The running of the applicable statute of limitations for any action that is the subject of a Taxpayer Assistance Order is suspended from the date the taxpayer applies for the order or the date the order is issued, whichever is earlier, until the order's expiration date, modification date or revision date, if any. Interest that would otherwise accrue on an outstanding tax obligation is not affected by the issuance of a Taxpayer Assistance Order.
- (e) A Taxpayer Assistance Order may not be used:
  - (1) To contest the merits of a tax liability.
  - (2) To substitute for informal protest procedures or administrative or judicial

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<sup>165</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

proceedings to review a deficiency assessment, collection action or denial of a refund claim.

**Sec. 517. Basis for evaluating employee performance.<sup>166</sup>**

- (a) The Tax Collector shall solicit evaluations from taxpayers and include such evaluations in the performance appraisals of his employees, where applicable.
- (b) The Tax Collector shall not evaluate an employee on the basis of taxes assessed or collected by that employee.

**Sec. 520. Reporting and payment of tax.**

- (a) Returns. The returns required under this Chapter shall be made upon forms prescribed or approved by the Tax Collector, and shall be considered filed only when the accuracy of the return has been attested to, by signature upon the form, by an authorized agent of the taxpayer, and when such form has been received by the Tax Collector.
- (b) Payment. If payment is made in any form other than United States legal tender, the tax obligation shall not be satisfied until the payment has been honored in funds.
- (c) Requirement of Security. If a taxpayer has remitted payment in the form of a check or other form of draw upon a bank or third party and such remittance has not been honored in funds, the Tax Collector may demand security for future payments.
- (d) Method of Reporting. Each taxpayer shall elect to report on either a cash receipts basis or an accrual basis and shall indicate the choice on the Privilege License application. A taxpayer shall not change his reporting method without receiving prior written approval by the Tax Collector.
  - (1) Taxpayers must report all gross income subject to the tax using the same basis of reporting.
  - (2) Taxes imposed upon construction contracting shall be reported as follows:
    - (A) Construction contractors shall report on either a progressive billing ("accrual") basis or cash receipts basis.
    - (B) Speculative builders shall report the gross income derived from sale of improved real property at close of escrow or at transfer of title or possession, whichever occurs earlier.
    - (C) Owner-builders who are not speculative builders shall report taxable amounts as provided in Section 417.

**Sec. 530. When tax due; when delinquent; verification of return; extensions.**

- (a) Except as provided elsewhere in this Section, the taxes shall be due and payable monthly on or before the twentieth (20th) day of the month next succeeding the month in

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<sup>166</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

which the tax accrues.

- (1) Quarterly returns. The Tax Collector may authorize a taxpayer whose reporting history indicates an estimated annual City Privilege and Use Tax liability on taxable gross income in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to file returns on a calendar-quarterly basis. The taxes for each calendar quarter shall be due and payable on or before the twentieth (20th) day of the month next succeeding the end of each calendar quarter.
- (2) Annual returns. The Tax Collector may authorize a taxpayer whose reporting history indicates an estimated annual City Privilege and Use Tax liability on taxable gross income of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to file returns for such taxes on a calendar-annual basis. The taxes for each calendar year shall be due and payable on or before the twentieth (20th) day of January of the following year.
- (b) Special Requirements of taxpayers filing quarterly or annual returns. No taxpayer may report on a quarterly or annual basis until he has established, to the Tax Collector's satisfaction, six (6) months reporting history. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to notify the Tax Collector and increase his reporting frequency (to quarterly or monthly as applicable) when his taxable income or tax due exceeds the maximum limits for his current reporting frequency. Failure to do so may be deemed negligence or evasion, and penalties may apply. Failure to file returns timely, without good cause shown to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector, is sufficient cause for the Tax Collector to deny future filings by the taxpayer on a quarterly or annual basis.
- (c) Delinquency Date. Except as provided in subsection (d) below, all returns and remittances received within the Tax Collector's office on or before the last business day of the month when due shall be regarded as timely filed. The start of business of the first business day following the month when due shall be the delinquency date. It shall be the taxpayer's responsibility to cause his return and remittance to be timely received. Mailing the return or remittance on or before the due date or delinquency date does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility of causing his return or remittance to be received by the last business day of the month when due.
- (d) Jeopardy reporting. If the Tax Collector determines that the collection of any tax due to the City is in jeopardy, the Tax Collector may direct the taxpayer to file his return and remit the tax on a weekly, daily, or transaction-by-transaction basis. Such return and remittance shall be due upon the date fixed by the Tax Collector, and the "delinquency date" shall be the following day.
- (e) Extensions. The Tax Collector may extend the time for filing a return, for good cause shown, and only when requested in writing and received by the Tax Collector prior to the tax due date. However, the time for filing such return shall not be extended beyond the last business day of the month next succeeding the due date of such return. In such cases, only the penalties for late filing and late payment may be waived by the Tax Collector for filing and payment within the extension period. Notwithstanding the granting of an extension, the interest payable for late payment of taxes shall be paid for the period commencing upon the original delinquency date and ending on the date the tax is paid. The interest may not be waived by the Tax Collector.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>167</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

**Sec. 540. Interest and civil penalties.<sup>168</sup>**

- (a) Any taxpayer who failed to pay any of the taxes imposed by this Chapter which were due or found to be due before the delinquency date shall be subject to and shall pay interest upon such tax until paid. From and after October 1, 2005, the interest rate shall be determined in the same manner and at the same times as prescribed by Section 6621 of the United States Internal Revenue Code and compounded annually under the method described in subsection (1) below. The rate of interest for both overpayments and underpayments for all taxpayers is the federal short-term rate, determined pursuant to Section 6621(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, plus three percentage points. The interest rate prior to October 1, 2005 shall be one percent (1%) per month. Said interest may be neither waived by the Tax Collector nor abated by the Hearing Officer except as it might relate to a tax abated as provided by Section 570.<sup>169</sup>
- (1) On January 1 of each year any interest outstanding as of that date that was accrued from and after October 1, 2005 is thereafter considered a part of the principal amount of the tax and accrues interest pursuant to this Section.<sup>170</sup>
- (2) Interest accrued prior to October 1, 2005 shall not be added to the principal.<sup>171</sup>
- (b) In addition to interest assessed under subsection (a) above, any taxpayer who failed to pay any of the taxes imposed by this Chapter which were due or found to be due before the delinquency date shall be subject to and shall pay any or all of the following civil penalties, in addition to any other penalties prescribed by this Chapter:
- (1) A taxpayer who fails to timely file a return for a tax imposed by this Chapter shall pay a penalty of five percent (5%) of the tax for each month or fraction of a month elapsing between the delinquency date of the return and the date on which it is filed, unless the taxpayer shows that the failure to timely file is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect. This penalty shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax due.
- (2) A taxpayer who fails to pay the tax within the time prescribed shall pay a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the unpaid tax, unless the taxpayer shows that the failure to timely pay is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect. If the taxpayer is also subject to a penalty under subsection (b)(1) above for the same tax period, the total penalties under subsection (b)(1) and this subsection shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax due.
- (3) A taxpayer who fails or refuses to file a return within thirty (30) days of having received a written notice and demand from the Tax Collector shall pay a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax, unless the taxpayer shows that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect or the Tax Collector agrees to a longer time period.
- (4) If the cause of a tax deficiency is determined by the Tax Collector to be due to negligence, but without regard for intent to defraud, the taxpayer shall pay a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of deficiency. If the taxpayer is also subject to a penalty under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) above for the same tax period, the total penalties imposed under subsection (b)(1), (b)(2) and this subsection shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax due.

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<sup>168</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>169</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

<sup>170</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

<sup>171</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

- (5) If the cause of a tax deficiency is determined by the Tax Collector to be due to civil fraud or evasion of the tax, the taxpayer shall pay a penalty of fifty percent (50%) of the amount of deficiency.
- (c) Penalties and interest imposed by this section are due and payable upon notice by the Tax Collector.
- (d) If, following an audit, penalties attributable to the audit period are to be assessed pursuant to subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) above, the Tax Collector, before assessing such penalties, must take into consideration any information or explanations provided by the taxpayer as to why the return was not timely filed and/or the tax was not timely paid. If such information and/or explanations are provided by the taxpayer, and the Tax Collector nevertheless decides to assess penalties pursuant to subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) above, then, at the time the penalties are assessed, the Tax Collector must provide the taxpayer with a detailed written explanation of the basis for the Tax Collector's determination that the information and/or explanations provided by the taxpayer did not constitute reasonable cause.
- (e) The assessment of the penalties prescribed by subsections (b)(3) through (b)(5) above must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Tax Collector prior to such assessment. In addition, any assessment which includes penalties based upon subsection (b)(3), (b)(4), or (b)(5) above must be accompanied by a statement signed by the Tax Collector setting forth in detail the basis for the Tax Collector's determination that the penalties are warranted under the circumstances.
- (f) The Tax Collector shall waive or adjust penalties imposed by subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) above upon a finding that:
  - (1) In the past, the taxpayer has consistently filed and paid the taxes imposed by this Chapter in a timely manner; or
  - (2) The amount of the penalty is greatly disproportionate to the amount of the tax; or
  - (3) The failure of a taxpayer to file a return and/or pay any tax by the delinquency date was caused by any of the following circumstances which must occur prior to the delinquency date of the return or payment in question:
    - (A) The return was timely filed but was inadvertently forwarded to another taxing jurisdiction.
    - (B) Erroneous or insufficient information was furnished the taxpayer by the Tax Collector or his employee or agent.
    - (C) Death or serious illness of the taxpayer, member of his immediate family, or the preparer of the reports immediately prior to the due date.
    - (D) Unavoidable absence of the taxpayer immediately prior to the due date.
    - (E) Destruction, by fire or other casualty, of the taxpayer's place of business or records.
    - (F) Prior to the due date, the taxpayer made application for proper forms which could not be furnished in sufficient time to permit a timely filing.
    - (G) The taxpayer was in the process of pursuing an active protest of the tax in

question in another taxing jurisdiction at the time the tax and/or return was due.

- (H) The taxpayer establishes through competent evidence that the taxpayer contacted a tax advisor who is competent on the specific tax matter and, after furnishing necessary and relevant information, the taxpayer was incorrectly advised that no tax was owed and/or the filing of a return was not required.
- (I) The taxpayer has never been audited by a city for the tax or on the issue in question and relied, in good faith, on a state exemption or interpretation.
- (J) The taxpayer can provide some public record (court case, report in a periodical, professional journal or publication, etc.) stating that the transaction is not subject to tax.
- (K) The Arizona Department of Revenue, based upon the same facts and circumstances, abated penalties for the same filing period.

A taxpayer may also request a waiver or adjustment of penalty for a reason thought to be equally substantive to those reasons itemized above. All requests for waiver or adjustment of penalty must be in writing and shall contain all pertinent facts and other reliable and substantive evidence to support the request. In all cases, the burden of proof is upon the taxpayer.

- (g) No request for waiver of penalty under subsection (f) above may be granted unless written request for waiver is received by the Tax Collector within forty-five (45) days following the imposition of penalty. Any taxpayer aggrieved by the refusal to grant a waiver under subsection (f) above may appeal under the provisions of Section 570 provided that a petition of appeal or request for an extension is submitted to the Tax Collector within forty-five (45) days of the taxpayer's receipt of notice by the City that waiver has been denied.
- (h) For the purpose of this Section, "reasonable cause" shall mean that the taxpayer exercised ordinary business care and prudence, i.e., had a reasonable basis for believing that the tax did not apply to the business activity or the storage or use of the taxpayer's tangible personal property in this City.
- (i) For the purpose of this section, "negligence" shall be characterized chiefly by inadvertence, thoughtlessness, inattention, or the like, rather than an "honest mistake". Examples of negligence include:
  - (1) The Taxpayer's failure to maintain records in accordance with article III of this Chapter;
  - (2) Repeated failures to timely file returns; or
  - (3) Gross ignorance of the law.

**Sec. 541. Erroneous advice or misleading statements by the Tax Collector; abatement of penalties and interest; definition.<sup>172</sup>**

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 540(a), no interest or penalty may be assessed on an amount

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<sup>172</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997



assessed as a deficiency if either:

- (1) The deficiency assessed is directly attributable to erroneous written advice furnished to the taxpayer by an employee of the City acting in an official capacity in response to a specific request from the taxpayer and not from the taxpayer's failure to provide adequate or accurate information.

- (2) All of the following are true:
  - (A) A tax return form prepared by the Tax Collector contains a statement that, if followed by a taxpayer, would cause the taxpayer to misapply this Chapter.
  - (B) The taxpayer reasonably relies on the statement.
  - (C) The taxpayer's underpayment directly results from this reliance.
- (b) Each employee of the Tax Collector, at the time any oral advice is given to any person, shall inform the person that the Tax Collector is not bound by such oral advice.
- (c) For purposes of this Section "tax return form" includes the instructions that the Tax Collector prepares for use with the tax return form.

**Sec. 542. Prospective application of new law or interpretation or application of law.** <sup>173</sup>

- (a) Unless expressly authorized by law, the Tax Collector shall not apply any newly enacted legislation retroactively or in a manner that will penalize a Taxpayer for complying with prior law.
- (b) If the Tax Collector adopts a new interpretation or application of any provision of the Chapter or determines that any provision applies to a new or additional category or type of business and the change in interpretation or application is not due to a change in law:
  - (1) The change in interpretation or application applies prospectively only unless it is favorable to Taxpayers.
  - (2) The Tax Collector shall not assess any tax, penalty or interest retroactively based on the change in interpretation or application.
- (c) For purposes of subsection b, "new interpretation or application" includes policies and procedures which differ from established interpretations of this Chapter.
- (d) (Reserved)<sup>174</sup>

**Sec. 545. Deficiencies; when inaccurate return is filed; when no return is filed; estimates.**

- (a) If the taxpayer has failed to file a return, or if the Tax Collector is not satisfied with the return and payment of the amount of tax required, and additional taxes are determined by the Tax Collector to be due, the Tax Collector shall deliver written notice of his determination of a deficiency to the taxpayer, and such deficiency, plus penalties and interest, shall be due and payable forty-five (45) days after receipt of the notice and demand. Such additional taxes shall bear any applicable civil penalties and interest as provided in Section 540, and every such notice of a determination of an additional amount due shall be assessed within the limitation period provided in Section 550.
  - (1) When a return is filed. If the Tax Collector is not satisfied with a return and payment of the amount of tax required by this Chapter to be paid to the City, he may examine the return or examine the records of the taxpayer, and redetermine

<sup>173</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective January 1, 2002

<sup>174</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

the amount of tax, penalties, and interest required to be paid, for any periods available to the Tax Collector under Section 550, based upon the information contained in the return or records or based upon any information within his possession or which comes into his possession.

- (2) When no return is filed. If any person fails to make a return, the Tax Collector may make an estimate of the amount of tax due under this Chapter and compute any applicable penalties and interest due, based upon any information within his possession or which comes into his possession.
- (b) Estimates by the Tax Collector. Any estimate made by the Tax Collector is to be made on a reasonable basis. The existence of another reasonable basis of estimation does not, in any way, invalidate the Tax Collector's estimate. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to prove that the Tax Collector's estimate is not reasonable and correct, by providing sufficient documentation of the type and form required by this Chapter or satisfactory to the Tax Collector.

**Sec. 546. Closing agreements in cases of extensive taxpayer misunderstanding or misapplication; City Attorney approval; rules.<sup>175</sup>**

- (a) If the Tax Collector determines that noncompliance with tax obligations results from extensive misunderstanding or misapplication of provisions of this Chapter it may enter into closing agreements with those taxpayers under the following terms and conditions:
  - (1) Extensive misunderstanding or misapplication of the tax laws occurs if the Tax Collector determines that more than sixty percent (60%) of the persons in the affected class have failed to properly account for their taxes owing to the same misunderstanding or misapplication of the tax laws.
  - (2) The Tax Collector shall publicly declare the nature of the possible misapplication and the proposed definition of the class of affected taxpayers and shall conduct a public hearing to hear testimony regarding the extent of the misapplication and the definition of the affected class.
  - (3) If, after the public hearing, the Tax Collector determines that a class of affected taxpayers has failed to comply with their tax obligations because of extensive misunderstanding or misapplication of the tax laws it shall issue a tax ruling announcing that finding and publish the ruling in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and through the next two Model City Tax Code updates.
  - (4) A closing agreement under this Section may abate some or all of the penalties, interest and tax that taxpayers have failed to remit, or the agreement may provide for the prospective treatment of the matter as to the class of affected taxpayers. All taxpayers in the class shall be offered the opportunity to enter into a similar agreement for the same tax periods.
  - (5) Taxpayers in the affected class who have properly accounted for their tax obligations for these tax periods shall be offered the opportunity to enter into an equivalent closing agreement providing for a pro rata credit or refund of their taxes previously paid.

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<sup>175</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (6) The closing agreement shall require the taxpayers to properly account for and pay such taxes in the future. If a taxpayer fails to adhere to such a requirement, the closing agreement is voidable by the Tax Collector and he may assess the taxpayer for the delinquent taxes. The Tax Collector may issue such a proposed assessment within six months after the date that he declares that closing agreement void or within the period prescribed by Section 550 of this Chapter.
- (b) Before entering into closing agreements pursuant to this Section, the Tax Collector shall secure such approval as required by charter, ordinance or administrative regulation.
- (c) After a closing agreement has been signed pursuant to this Section, it is final and conclusive except on a showing of fraud, malfeasance or misrepresentation of a material fact. The case shall not be reopened as to the matters agreed upon or the agreement shall not be modified by any officer, employee or agent of the City. The agreement or any determination, assessment, collection, payment abatement, refund or credit made pursuant to the agreement shall not be annulled, modified, set aside or disregarded in any suit, action or proceeding.
- (d) The Tax Collector shall report in writing its activities under this Section to the Mayor and City Council on or before February 1 of each year.

**Sec. 550. Limitation periods.<sup>176</sup>**

- (a) Limitation when a return has been filed.
  - (1) Except as provided elsewhere in this Section, the Tax Collector may assess additional tax due at any time within four (4) years after the date on which the return is required to be filed, or within four (4) years after the date on which the return is filed, whichever period expires later.
  - (2) However, if a taxpayer does not report an amount properly reportable which is in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the taxable amount stated on the return, the Tax Collector may assess additional tax due at any time within six (6) years after the date on which the return was filed.
  - (3) Any delay in commencement or completion of any examination by the Tax Collector, which is requested or agreed to in writing by the taxpayer, shall be excluded from the computation of any limitation period prescribed by this Section, and the Tax Collector shall be entitled to make a determination for taxes due without exclusion of any such time period, and any limitation period shall be extended for a length of time equivalent to the period of the agreed upon delay.
  - (4) Any assessment of additional tax due by the Tax Collector shall be deemed to have been made by mailing a copy of a notice of audit assessment by certified mail to the taxpayer's address of record with the Tax Collector or by personal delivery of a copy of a notice of audit assessment to the taxpayer or his authorized agent.

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<sup>176</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (b) Suspension of limitation period. The limitation period on assessment shall be suspended for any period:
  - (1) The assets of the taxpayer are in the control or custody of the court in any proceeding before any court of jurisdiction within the United States of America, and for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days thereafter; or
  - (2) Which the taxpayer and the Tax Collector agree upon in writing.
- (c) When no return filed; fraudulent return. In the case of a fraudulent return with the intent to evade tax, or the failure or refusal to file a return for any month, the Tax Collector may assess the amount of taxes payable for that month at any time, without any reliance by the taxpayer upon any time limitation provided elsewhere in this Chapter.
- (d) Special provisions relating to owner-builders. The limitation for an owner-builder subject to the tax as prescribed in Section 417 shall be based upon the date such tax liability is reportable or was reported, as provided in Section 417.

**Sec. 553. Examination of Taxpayer records; joint audits.<sup>177</sup>**

- (a) Waiver of joint audit: A Taxpayer that does not authorize a joint audit to be conducted for a tax jurisdiction is subject to audit by that tax jurisdiction at any time subject to the limitation provisions provided in Section 550.<sup>178</sup>
- (b) Tax jurisdiction acceptance of joint audit: If the Arizona Department of Revenue intends to conduct an audit of a Taxpayer, the cities or towns for whom a joint audit is being conducted may accept the audit by the Arizona Department of Revenue or may elect to have a representative participate, provided that no more than two city or town representatives in total may participate.<sup>179</sup>
  - (1) If a city or town does not accept the audit as a joint audit, the city or town may not conduct an audit of the Taxpayer for the forty-two months from the close of the last tax period covered by the audit unless an exception applies to that Taxpayer pursuant to A.R.S. 42-2059.<sup>180</sup>
  - (2) If a joint audit is performed by a city or town, the Arizona Department of Revenue is not prohibited from conducting an audit that does not violate the provisions of A.R.S. 42-2059.<sup>181</sup>

**Sec. 555. Tax Collector may examine books and other records; failure to provide records.<sup>182</sup>**

- (a) The Tax Collector may require the taxpayer to provide and may examine any books, records, or other documents of any person who, in the opinion of the Tax Collector, might be liable for any tax under this Chapter, for any periods available to him under

<sup>177</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>178</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>179</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>180</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>181</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>182</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

Section 550.

- (b) In order to perform any examination authorized by this Chapter, the Tax Collector may issue an Administrative Request for the attendance of witnesses or for the production of documents, as provided by Regulation.
- (c) If within sixty (60) days of receiving a written request for information in the possession of the taxpayer, the taxpayer fails or refuses to furnish the requested information, the Tax Collector may, in addition to penalties prescribed under Section 540, impose an additional penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of any tax deficiency which is attributable to the information which the taxpayer failed to provide, unless the taxpayer shows that the failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.
- (d) The Tax Collector may use any generally accepted auditing procedures, including sampling techniques, to determine the correct tax liability of any taxpayer. The Tax Collector shall ensure that the procedures used are in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- (e) The fact that the taxpayer has not maintained or provided such books and records which the Tax Collector considers necessary to determine the tax liability of any person does not preclude the Tax Collector from making any assessment. In such cases, the Tax Collector is authorized to use estimates, projections, or samplings, to determine the correct tax. The provisions of Section 545(b), concerning estimates, shall apply.
- (f) The Tax Collector shall give the taxpayer written notice of his determination of a deficiency by certified mail to the taxpayer's address of record with the tax collector, and the tax deficiency, plus interest and penalties, is final forty-five (45) days from the date of receipt of the notice by the taxpayer, unless an appeal is taken pursuant to the provisions of Sections 570 through 575.<sup>183</sup>

**Sec. 556. No additional audits or proposed assessments; exceptions.**<sup>184</sup>

- (a) Once the Tax Collector completes an examination authorized by Section 555 and a written notice of the determination of a deficiency has been issued to the taxpayer pursuant to Section 545(a) or 555(f), the taxpayer's liability for the time period subjected to the examination is fixed and determined, and no additional audit or examination may be conducted by the Tax Collector with respect to such time period except under the following circumstances:
  - (1) If a taxpayer files a claim for refund under Section 560, the Tax Collector may conduct an examination limited to the issues presented in the refund claim.
  - (2) If the taxpayer failed to disclose material information during the initial examination, falsified books or records, or otherwise engaged in conduct which prevented the Tax Collector from conducting an accurate examination. The applicability of this subsection, and the Tax Collector's right to proceed thereunder, may be raised and contested by the taxpayer in a subsequent administrative review brought pursuant to Section 570.
- (b) An audit or examination conducted by any other taxing jurisdiction will not preclude the Tax Collector from conducting an audit or examination for the same time period.

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<sup>183</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>184</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (c) If the Tax Collector issues a notice of deficiency pursuant to either Section 545(a) or Section 555(f), the Tax Collector may not increase the proposed deficiency except in one or more of the following circumstances:
- (1) The taxpayer made a material misrepresentation of fact.
  - (2) The taxpayer failed to disclose a material fact.
  - (3) The Tax Collector submitted a written request for information prior to issuance of the assessment, and the taxpayer, despite possessing or having access to such information, failed to provide it within 60 days as required by Section 555(c).<sup>185</sup>
  - (4) After issuing the notice of determination of deficiency but before the deficiency became final, the Arizona Tax Court, Court of Appeals or Supreme Court issued a decision, the applicability of which causes the deficiency initially proposed to increase.

**Sec. 560. Erroneous payment of tax; credits and refunds; limitations.**<sup>186 187</sup>

- (a) The Tax Collector may authorize either credits or payments of refunds for any taxes, penalties or interest paid in excess of the amount actually due. Any credit authorized by the Tax Collector shall be canceled from the accounts of the City if no timely filed request for credit or refund is made by the claimant claiming same within one (1) year following the date of determination and notice by the Tax Collector of the excess payment. For purposes of this Section, "claimant" means a taxpayer that has paid a tax imposed under this Article and has submitted a credit or refund claim under this Section. Except where the taxpayer has granted a customer a power of attorney to pursue a credit or refund claim on the taxpayer's behalf, claimant does not include any customer of such taxpayer, whether or not the claimant collected the tax from customers by separately stated itemization.
- (b) No credit shall be allowed or refund paid except under one of the following conditions:
- (1) As provided in Section 565.
  - (2) Upon examination of filed returns for any period not excluded by Section 550, and not to exceed the tax, penalty, or interest actually paid with such returns.
  - (3) Upon audit or other examination of the books and records of the taxpayer, but only for periods as provided in Section 550. In the case of an examination performed at the taxpayer's request, credit shall be allowed or refund paid only for any excess taxes, penalties, or interest actually paid within the limitation period provided in Section 550, such period to be calculated from the date of receipt of the taxpayer's request by the Tax Collector. Requests by taxpayers for audits to authorize credits shall be honored unless, in the opinion of the Tax Collector, the taxpayer has made excessive requests for audits.
  - (4) Upon the claimant's submission of a written claim for credit or refund of any taxes, penalties, or interest paid to the City by the claimant.

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<sup>185</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>186</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>187</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

- (c) A credit or refund claim submitted by a claimant pursuant to subsection (b)(4) of this Section must:
  - (1) Identify the name, address and city tax identification number of the taxpayer; and
  - (2) Identify the dollar amount of the credit or refund requested; and
  - (3) Identify the specific tax period involved; and
  - (4) Identify the specific grounds upon which the claim is based.
- (d) When a written claim for credit or refund is submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(4) of this Section, no credit shall be allowed or refund paid except for those taxes, penalties, or interest paid in excess of the amount due within the limitation period provided in Section 550. The credit or refund limitation period shall be calculated from the date the Tax Collector receives the claimant's written claim meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section
- (e) The following additional requirements apply to the Tax Collector and the claimant for claims for credit or refund submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(4) of this Section:
  - (1) The Tax Collector shall notify the claimant that the claim for credit or refund has been received and shall indicate whether the claim meets the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section. If the claim does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section, the Tax Collector shall identify the deficiency in writing. Any claim that does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section shall not secure the limitation period pursuant to Section 550.
  - (2) The Tax Collector may request, in writing, additional information or documentation from the claimant to support the requested credit or refund. Such information or documentation must be reasonably related to the claim and required to be maintained under this Chapter in the normal course of business.
    - (A) The claimant may request in writing one or more extensions to supply the requested information or documentation. The Tax Collector may reject an extension request only by denying the claim in whole or in part, subject to appeal by the claimant pursuant to Section 570.
    - (B) A claimant aggrieved by a request for information or documentation under this subsection may file an appeal in the manner provided for in Section 570 regarding the scope of the request for information or documentation. Such petition must be filed no later than the last day by which requested information or documentation must be provided to the Tax Collector, including any extensions. The decision of the Hearing Officer regarding a request for information or documentation may not be appealed by either party until the claim has been approved or denied, in whole or in part, under subsection (h) of this Section or through subsections (e)(3) or (e)(4) of this Section. A claimant shall not be barred from raising the issue of the reasonableness of the Tax Collector's information or documentation request in an appeal filed under subsection (h) of this Section or through subsections (e)(3) or (e)(4) of this Section through a lack of filing a petition under this subsection.



- (3) If the Tax Collector fails to request additional information or documentation pursuant to this Section and fails to issue a determination on any claim for credit or refund within six (6) months after the claim is filed, the claimant may consider the claim denied and may file an appeal pursuant to Section 570.
  - (4) If the Tax Collector fails to issue a determination within six (6) months of receiving all requested additional information or documentation, the claimant may consider the claim for credit or refund denied and may file an appeal pursuant to Section 570.
  - (5) The burden of proof to show that a notice, request, determination or other communication was received by the claimant in this Section is on the Tax Collector, and will be satisfied by receipt of notice. The burden of proof to show that a claim or additional information or documentation was received by the Tax Collector is on the claimant and will be satisfied by receipt of notice.
- (f) Interest shall be allowed on the overpayment of tax for any credit or refund authorized pursuant to subsections (b)(3) or (b)(4) of this Section at the rate and in the manner set forth in Section 540(a) as follows:
- (1) For credits or refunds authorized pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of this Section, interest shall be calculated from the date the Tax Collector receives the claimant's written claim following the date of notice to the claimant authorizing the credit or refund.
  - (2) For credits or refunds authorized pursuant to subsection (b)(4) of this Section, interest shall be calculated from the date the Tax Collector receives the claimant's written claim meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section.
- (g) The Tax Collector shall give the claimant a written notice of determination for a claim made under subsection (b) of this Section. If the determination is a denial of a claim, in whole or in part, the determination must state that the claim for credit or refund has been denied in whole or in part, with the reason for denial, and must include the claimant's rights of appeal pursuant to Section 570.
- (h) A determination by the Tax Collector under this Section, whether an approval of a claim or a denial of a claim, in whole or in part, shall become final forty-five (45) days from the date of receipt of the notice by the claimant, unless an appeal is made pursuant to Section 570. If the claimant is the prevailing party in an appeal of a determination under this Section, Section 578 shall apply, except that reasonable fees and other costs may be awarded either by the Hearing Officer or Court and are not subject to the monetary limitations of subsection 578(e) if the Tax Collector's position was not substantially justified or was brought for the purpose of harassing the claimant, frustrating the credit or refund process or delaying the credit or refund. For the purposes of this Section, "reasonable fees and other costs" means fees and other costs that are based on prevailing market rates for the kind and quality of the furnished services, not to exceed the amounts actually paid for expert witnesses, the cost of any study, analysis, report, test, project or computer program that is found to be necessary to prepare the claimant's case and necessary fees for attorneys or other representatives.
- (i) The amendments to this Section as enacted in Ordinance #3682 shall be effective as follows:
- (1) For any claim for refund or credit received by the Tax Collector before October 1, 2005,

- (A) The provisions of this Section as it existed prior to the adoption of Ordinance #3682 shall apply, except that interest shall be allowed from and after October 1, 2005 as provided in subsection (f) of this Section as enacted by Ordinance #3682.
- (B) Except as noted in subsection (1)(a) above, the amendments to this Section as enacted in Ordinance #3682 shall not be cited or considered in the construction or the interpretation of the City tax refund or credit provisions, interest provisions, or appeal provisions in effect prior to October 1, 2005.
- (2) The provisions of this Section enacted by Ordinance #3682 shall apply to all claims for refund or credit, for any periods as determined by subsections (d) or (e) of this Section, received by the Tax Collector from and after October 1, 2005, except for claims that, in whole or in part, had been received by the Tax Collector prior to October 1, 2005.
- (j) Any refund paid under the provisions of this Section shall be paid from the Privilege Tax revenue accounts.

**Sec. 565. Payment of tax by the incorrect taxpayer or to the incorrect Arizona city or town.<sup>188</sup>**

- (a) When it is determined that taxes have been reported and paid to the City by the wrong taxpayer, any taxes erroneously paid shall be transferred by the City to the privilege tax account of the person who actually owes and should have paid such taxes, provided that the City receives an assignment and waiver signed by both the person who actually paid the tax and the person who should have paid the tax.
- (b) An assignment and waiver provided under this Section, must:
  - (1) Identify the name and City privilege license number of the person who erroneously paid the tax and the person who should have paid the tax.
  - (2) Provide that the person who erroneously paid the tax waives any right such person may have to a refund of the taxes erroneously paid.
  - (3) Authorize the City Treasurer to transfer the erroneously paid tax to the privilege tax account of the person who should have paid the tax.
- (c) When it is determined that taxes have been reported and paid to the wrong Arizona city or town, such taxes shall be remitted to the correct city or town, provided that the city or town to whom the taxes were erroneously paid receives an assignment and waiver signed by both the person who actually paid the tax and the person who should have paid the tax. Where the person who actually paid the tax and the person who should have paid the tax are one and the same, no assignment and waiver need be provided. The City shall neither pay nor charge any interest or penalty on any overpayment or underpayment except such interest and penalty actually paid by the taxpayer relating to such tax.
- (d) This Section in no way limits or restricts the applicability of any remedies which may otherwise be available under A.R.S. Section 42-6003. The limitations and procedures set forth in A.R.S. Section 42-6003 shall apply to all payments under this Section.

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<sup>188</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (e) When reference is made in this Section to this City or an Arizona city or town, and payments made to or requested from this City or an Arizona city or town, the provisions shall be applicable to the Arizona Department of Revenue when it is acting for or on behalf of this City or an Arizona city or town.

**Sec. 567. (Reserved)<sup>189</sup>**

**Sec. 570. Administrative review; petition for hearing or for redetermination; finality of order.<sup>190</sup>**

For the purposes of Section 570, *Municipal Tax Hearing Office* means the administrative offices of the Municipal Tax Hearing Officer.<sup>191</sup>

- (a) Informal Conference. A taxpayer shall have the right to discuss any proposed assessment with the auditor prior to the issuance of any assessment, but any such informal conference is not required for the taxpayer to file a petition for administrative review.
- (b) Administrative Review.
  - (1) Filing a Petition. Other than in the case of a jeopardy assessment, a taxpayer may contest the applicability or amount of any tax, penalty, or interest imposed upon or paid by him pursuant to this Chapter by filing a petition for a hearing or for redetermination with the Tax Collector as set forth below:
    - (A) Within forty-five (45) days of receipt by the taxpayer of notice of a determination by the Tax Collector that a tax, penalty, or interest amount is due, or that a request for refund or credit has been denied; or
    - (B) By voluntary payment of any contested amount when accompanied by a timely filed return and a petition requesting a refund of the protested portion of said payment; or
    - (C) By petition accompanying a timely filed return contesting an amount reported but not paid; or
    - (D) By petition requesting review of denial of waiver of penalty as provided in subsection 540(g).
  - (2) Extension to file a petition. In all cases, the taxpayer may request only one (1) extension from the Tax Collector. Such request must be in writing, state the reasons for the requested delay and time of delay requested, and must be filed with the Tax Collector within the period allowed above for originally filing a petition. The Tax Collector shall allow such extension to file a petition, when such written request has been properly and timely made by the taxpayer, but such extension shall not exceed forty-five (45) days beyond the time provided for originally filing a petition.

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<sup>189</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>190</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>191</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

(3) Requirements for petition.

- (A) The petition shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons why any correction, abatement, or refund should be granted, and the amount of reduction or refund requested. The petition may be amended at any time prior to the time the taxpayer rests his case at the hearing or such time as the Hearing Officer allows for submitting of amendments in cases of redeterminations without hearings. The Hearing Officer may require that amendments be in writing, and in that case, he shall provide a reasonable period of time to file the amendment. The Hearing Officer shall provide a reasonable period of time for the Tax Collector to review and respond to the petition and to any written amendments.
- (B) The taxpayer, as part of the petition, may request a hearing which shall be granted by the Hearing Officer. If no request for hearing is made the petition shall be considered to be submitted for decision by the Hearing Officer on the matters contained in the petition and in any reply made by the Tax Collector.
- (C) The provisions of this Section are exclusive, and no petition seeking any correction, abatement, or refund shall be considered unless the petition is timely and properly filed under this Section.

(4) Transmittal to Hearing Officer. The City shall designate a Hearing Officer, who may be other than an employee of the City. The Tax Collector, if designated to receive petitions, shall forward any petition to the Municipal Tax Hearing Office (MTHO) within twenty (20) days after receipt, accompanied by documentation as to timeliness. In cases where the Hearing Officer determines that the petition is not timely or not in proper form, he shall notify both the taxpayer and the Tax Collector; and in cases of petitions not in proper form only, the Hearing Officer shall provide the taxpayer with an extension up to forty-five (45) days to correct the petition.<sup>192</sup>

(5) Hearings shall be conducted by a Hearing Officer and shall be continuous until the Hearing Officer closes the record. The taxpayer may be heard in person or by his authorized representative at such hearing. Hearings shall be conducted informally as to the order of proceeding and presentation of evidence. The Hearing Officer shall admit evidence over hearsay objections where the offered evidence has substantial probative value and reliability. Further, copies of records and documents prepared in the ordinary course of business may be admitted, without objection as to foundation, but subject to argument as to weight, admissibility, and authenticity. Summary accounting records may be admitted subject to satisfactory proof of the reliability of the summaries. In all cases, the decision of the Hearing Officer shall be made solely upon substantial and reliable evidence. All expenses incurred in the hearing shall be paid by the party incurring the same.

(6) Redeterminations upon a "petition for redetermination" shall follow the same conditions, except that no oral hearing shall be held.

(7) Hearing Ruling. In either case, the Hearing Officer shall issue his ruling not later than forty-five (45) days after the close of the record by the Hearing Officer.

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<sup>192</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

- (8) Notice of Refund or Adjusted Assessment. Within sixty (60) days of the issuance of the Hearing Officer's decision, the Tax Collector shall issue to the taxpayer either a notice of refund or an adjusted assessment recalculated to conform to the Hearing Officer's decision.
- (c) Stipulations that future tax is also protested. A taxpayer may enter into a stipulation with the Tax Collector that future taxes of similar nature are also at issue in any protest or appeal. However, unless such stipulation is made, it is presumed that the protest or appeal deals solely and exclusively with the tax specifically protested and no other. When a taxpayer enters into such a stipulation with the Tax Collector that future taxes of similar nature will be included in any redetermination, hearing, or court case, it is the burden of that taxpayer to identify, segregate, and keep record of such income or protested taxable amount in his books and records in the same manner as the taxpayer is required to segregate exempt income.
- (d) When an assessment is final.
- (1) If a request for administrative review and petition for hearing or redetermination of an assessment made by the Tax Collector is not filed within the period required by subsection (b) above, such person shall be deemed to have waived and abandoned the right to question the amount determined to be due and any tax, interest, or penalty determined to be due shall be final as provided in subsections 545(a) and 555(f).
- (2) The decision made by the Hearing Officer upon administrative review by hearing or redetermination shall become final thirty (30) days after the taxpayer receives the notice of refund or adjusted assessment required by subsection (b)(8) above, unless the taxpayer appeals the order or decision in the manner provided in Section 575.
- (e) (Reserved)

#### **Sec. 571. Jeopardy assessments.**

- (a) If the Tax Collector believes that the collection of any assessment or deficiency of any amounts imposed by this Chapter will be jeopardized by delay, he shall deliver to the taxpayer a notice of such finding and demand immediate payment of the tax or deficiency declared to be in jeopardy, including interest, penalties, and additions.
- (b) Jeopardy assessments are immediately due and payable, and the Tax Collector may immediately begin proceedings for collection. The taxpayer, however, may stay collection by filing, within ten (10) days after receipt of notice of jeopardy assessment, or within such additional time as the Tax Collector may allow, by bond or collateral in favor of the City in the amount Tax Collector declared to be in jeopardy in his notice.
- (c) "Bond or Collateral", as required by this Section,
- (1) Shall mean either:
- (A) A bond issued in favor of the City by a surety company authorized to transact business in this State and approved by the Director of Insurance as to solvency and responsibility, or
- (B) Collateral composed of securities or cash which are deposited with, and kept in the custody of, the Tax Collector.

- (2) Shall be of such form that it may, at any time without notice, be applied to any tax, penalties, or interest due and payable for the purposes of this Chapter. Securities held as collateral by the Tax Collector must be of a nature that they may be sold at public or private sale without notice to the taxpayer.
- (d) If bond or collateral is not filed within the period prescribed by subsection (b) above, the tax collector may treat the assessment as final for purposes of any collection proceedings. The taxpayer nevertheless shall be afforded the appeal rights provided in Sections 570 and 575. The filing of a petition by the taxpayer under Section 570, however, shall not stay the Tax Collector's rights to pursue any collection proceedings.
- (e) If the taxpayer timely files sufficient bond or collateral, the jeopardy requirements are deemed satisfied, and the taxpayer may avail himself of the provisions of Section 570, including requests for additional time to file a petition.

**Sec. 572. Expedited review of jeopardy assessments.<sup>193</sup>**

- (a) Within thirty (30) days after the day on which the Tax Collector furnishes the written notice required by Section 571(a), the taxpayer, pursuant to Section 570, may request the Tax Collector to review the action taken. Within fifteen (15) days after the request for review, the Tax Collector shall determine whether both the jeopardy determination and the amount assessed are reasonable.
- (b) Within thirty (30) days after the Tax Collector notifies the taxpayer of the determination he reached pursuant to subsection (a) above, the taxpayer may bring a civil action in the appropriate court. If the taxpayer so requests, the City shall stipulate to an accelerated and expedited resolution of the civil action. If the court determines that either the jeopardy determination or the amount assessed is unreasonable, the court may order the Tax Collector to abate the assessment, to redetermine any part of the amount assessed or to take such other action as the court finds to be appropriate. A determination made by the court under this subsection is final except as provided in Arizona Revised Statutes Section 12-170.

**Sec. 575. Judicial review.<sup>194</sup>**

- (a) A taxpayer may seek judicial review of all or any part of a Hearing Officer's decision by initiating an action against the City in the appropriate Court of this County. A taxpayer is not required to pay any tax, penalty, or interest upheld by the Hearing Officer before seeking such judicial review.
- (b) The Tax Collector may seek judicial review of all or any part of a Hearing Officer's decision by initiating an action in the appropriate Court of this County.
- (c) An action for judicial review can not be commenced by either the taxpayer or the Tax Collector more than thirty (30) days after receipt by the taxpayer of notice of any refund or assessment recalculated or reduced to conform to the Hearing Officer's decision, unless the time to commence such an action is extended in writing signed by both the taxpayer and the Tax Collector. Failure to bring the action within thirty (30) days or such other time as is agreed upon in writing shall constitute a waiver of any right to judicial review, except as provided in subsection (f) below.

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<sup>193</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>194</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (d) The court shall hear and determine the appeal as a trial de novo; however, the tax collector cannot raise in the court any grounds or basis for the assessment not asserted before the Hearing Officer. Nothing in this subsection, however, shall preclude the Tax Collector from responding to any arguments which are raised by the taxpayer in the appeal.
- (e) The City has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence in any court proceeding regarding any factual issue relevant to ascertaining the tax liability of a taxpayer. This subsection does not abrogate any requirement of this chapter that requires a taxpayer to substantiate an item of gross income, exclusion, exemption, deduction, or credit. This subsection applies to a factual issue if a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that:
  - (1) The taxpayer asserts a reasonable dispute regarding the issue.
  - (2) The taxpayer has fully cooperated with the Tax Collector regarding the issue, including providing within a reasonable period of time, access to and inspection of all witnesses, information and documents within the taxpayer's control, as reasonably requested by the Tax Collector.
  - (3) The taxpayer has kept and maintained records as required by the City.<sup>195</sup>
- (f) The issuance of an adjusted or corrected assessment or notice of refund due to the taxpayer, where made by the Tax Collector pursuant to the decision of the Hearing Officer, shall not be deemed an acquiescence by the City or the Tax Collector in said decision, nor shall it constitute a bar or estoppel to the institution of an action or counterclaim by the City to recover any amounts claimed to be due to it by virtue of the original assessment.
- (g) After the initiation of any action in the appropriate court by either party, the opposite party may file such counterclaim as would be allowed pursuant to the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure.

**Sec. 577. Refunds of taxes paid under protest.**

In the event the Hearing Officer's decision or a final judgment by the Court is rendered in favor of the taxpayer to recover protested taxes, it shall be the duty of the Tax Collector, upon receipt of such decision or of a certified copy of such final judgment, to authorize a warrant in favor of the taxpayer in an amount equal to the amount of the tax found by such decision or by the final judgment to have been paid under protest, and such warrant shall include the amount of interest or other cost that may have been recovered against the City by the final judgment in such action in the courts, to be paid from the Privilege Tax revenue accounts.

**Sec. 578. Reimbursement of fees and other costs; definitions.<sup>196</sup>**

- (a) A taxpayer who is a prevailing party may be reimbursed for reasonable fees and other costs related to any administrative proceeding brought by the taxpayer pursuant to Section 570(b). For purposes of this Section, a taxpayer is considered to be the prevailing party only if both of the following are true:
  - (1) The Tax Collector's position was not substantially justified.

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<sup>195</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>196</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (2) The taxpayer prevails as to the most significant issue or set of issues.
- (b) Reimbursement under this Section may be denied if any of the following circumstances apply:
  - (1) During the course of the proceeding the taxpayer unduly and unreasonably protracted the final resolution of the matter.
  - (2) The reason that the taxpayer prevailed is due to an intervening change in the applicable law.
- (c) The taxpayer shall present an itemization of the reasonable fees and other costs to the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer within thirty (30) days after receipt by the taxpayer of a notice of refund or recalculated assessment issued by the Tax Collector pursuant to Section 570(b)(8). The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer shall determine the validity of the fees and other costs within thirty (30) days after receiving the itemization. The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer's decision is considered a final decision. Either the taxpayer or the Tax Collector may seek judicial review of the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer's decision. An action for judicial review, however, shall not be commenced more than thirty (30) days after receipt of the resolution officer's decision.
- (d) In the event judicial review is not sought pursuant to subsection (c) above, the City shall pay the fees and other costs awarded as provided in this Section within thirty days after demand by a person who has received an award pursuant to this Section.
- (e) Reimbursement to a taxpayer under this Section shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars or actual monies spent, whichever is less. The reimbursable attorney or representative fees shall not exceed one hundred dollars per hour or actual monies spent, whichever is less, unless the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer determines that an increase in the cost of living or a special factor such as the limited availability of qualified attorneys or representatives for the proceeding involved justifies a higher fee.
- (f) For purposes of this Section "reasonable fees and other costs" means fees and other costs that are based on prevailing market rates for the kind and quality of the furnished services, but not exceeding the amounts actually spent for expert witnesses, the cost of any study, analysis, report, test or project that is found to be necessary to prepare the party's case and necessary fees for attorneys or other representatives.

**Sec. 580. Criminal penalties.**

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or willfully:
  - (1) Fail or refuse to make any return required by this Chapter.
  - (2) Fail to remit as and when due the full amount of any tax or additional tax or penalty and interest thereon.
  - (3) Make or cause to be made a false or fraudulent return.
  - (4) Make or cause to be made a false or fraudulent statement in a return, in written support of a return, or to demonstrate or support entitlement to a deduction, exclusion, or credit or to entitle the person to an allocation or apportionment or receipts subject to tax.



- (5) Fail or refuse to permit any lawful examination of any book, account, record, or other memorandum by the Tax Collector.
  - (6) Fail or refuse to remit any tax collected by such person from his customer to the Tax Collector before the delinquency date next following such collection.
  - (7) Advertise or hold out to the public in any manner, directly or indirectly, that any tax imposed by this Chapter, as provided in this Chapter, is not considered as an element in the price to the consumer.
  - (8) Fail or refuse to obtain a Privilege License or to aid or abet another in any attempt to intentionally refuse to obtain such a license or evade the license fee.
  - (9) Reproduce, forge, falsify, fraudulently obtain or secure, or aid or abet another in any attempt to reproduce, forge, falsify, or fraudulently obtain or secure, an exemption from taxes imposed by this Chapter.
- (b) The violation of any provision of subsection (a) above shall constitute a Class One Misdemeanor.
  - (c) In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person who shall knowingly swear to or verify any false or fraudulent statement, with the intent aforesaid, shall be guilty of the offense of perjury and on conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner provided by law.

**Sec. 590. Civil actions.**

- (a) Liens.<sup>197</sup>
  - (1) Any tax, penalty, or interest imposed under this Chapter which has become final, as provided in this Chapter, shall become a lien when the City perfects a notice and claim of lien setting forth the name of the taxpayer, the amount of the tax, penalty, and interest, the period or periods for which the same is due, and the date of accrual thereof, the amount of the recording costs by the county recorder in any county in which the taxpayer owns real property and the documentation and lien processing fees imposed by the City council and further, stating that the City claims a lien therefor.
  - (2) The notice of claim of lien shall be signed by the Financial Services General Manager under his official seal or the official seal of the City, and, with respect to real property, shall be recorded in the office of the County Recorder of any county in which the taxpayer owns real property, and, with respect to personal property shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. After the notice and claim of lien is recorded or filed, the taxes, penalties, interest and recording costs and lien processing fees referred to above in the amounts specified therein shall be a lien on all real property of the taxpayer located in such county where recorded, and all tangible personal property of the taxpayer within the State, superior to all other liens and assessments recorded or filed subsequent to the recording or filing of the notice and claim of lien.
  - (3) Every tax and any increases, interest, penalties, and recording costs and lien processing fees referred to above, shall become from the time the same is due and payable a personal debt from the person liable to the City, but shall be payable to and recoverable by the Tax Collector and which may be collected in the manner set

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<sup>197</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

forth in subsection (b) below.

- (4) Any lien perfected pursuant to this Section shall, upon payment of the taxes, penalties, interest, recording costs and lien processing fees referred to above and lien release fees imposed by the county recorder in any county in which the lien was recorded, thereby, be released by the Tax Collector in the same manner as mortgages and judgments are released. The Tax Collector may, at his sole discretion, release a lien in part, that is, against only specified property, for partial payment of moneys due the City.
- (b) Actions to recover tax. An action may be brought by the City Attorney or other legal advisor to the City designated by the City Council, at the request of the Tax Collector, in the name of the City, to recover the amount of any taxes, penalties, interest, recording costs, lien processing fees and lien release fees due under this Chapter; provided that:
- (1) No action or proceeding may be taken or commenced to collect any taxes levied by this Chapter until the amount thereof has been established by assessment, correction, or reassessment; and
  - (2) Such collection effort is made or the proceedings begun:
    - (A) Within six (6) years after the assessment of the tax; or
    - (B) Prior to the expiration of any period of collection agreed upon in writing by the Tax Collector and the taxpayer before the expiration of such six (6) year period, or any extensions thereof; or
    - (C) At any time for the collection of tax arising by reason of a tax lien perfected, recorded, or possessed by the City under this Section.

**Sec. 595. Collection of taxes when there is succession in and/or cessation of business.**

- (a) In addition to any remedy provided elsewhere in this City Code that may apply, the Tax Collector may apply the provisions of subsections (b) through (d) below concerning the collection of taxes when there is succession in and/or cessation of business.
- (b) The taxes imposed by this Chapter are a lien on the property of any person subject to this Chapter who sells his business or stock of goods, or quits his business, if the person fails to make a final return and payment of the tax within fifteen (15) days after selling or quitting his business.
- (c) Any person who purchases, or who acquires by foreclosure, by sale under trust deed or warranty deed in lieu of foreclosure, or by any other method, improved real property or a portion of improved real property for which the Privilege Tax imposed by this Chapter has not been paid shall be responsible for payment of such tax as a speculative builder or owner builder, as provided in Sections 416 and 417.
- (d) A person's successors or assignees shall withhold from the purchase money an amount sufficient to cover the taxes required to be paid, and interest or penalties due and payable, until the former owner produces a receipt from the Tax Collector showing that all City tax has been paid or a certificate stating that no amount is due as then shown by the records of the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector shall respond to a request from the seller for a certificate within fifteen (15) days by either providing the certificate or a written notice stating why the certificate cannot be issued.

- (1) If a subsequent audit shows a deficiency arising before the sale of the business, the deficiency is an obligation of the seller and does not constitute a liability against a buyer who has received a certificate from the Tax Collector.
- (2) If the purchaser of a business or stock of goods fails to obtain a certificate as provided by this Section, he is personally liable for payment of the amount of taxes required to be paid by the former owner on account of the business so purchased, with interest and penalties accrued by the former owner or assignees.

**Sec. 596. Agreement for installment payments of tax.<sup>198</sup>**

- (a) The City may enter into an agreement with a taxpayer to allow the taxpayer to satisfy a liability for any tax imposed by this Chapter by means of installment payments. The Tax Collector may require a taxpayer who requests an installment payment agreement to complete a financial report in such form and manner as the Tax Collector may prescribe.
- (b) The Tax Collector, without notice, may alter, modify or terminate an installment payment agreement if the taxpayer:
  - (1) Fails to pay an installment at the time the installment payment is due under the agreement.
  - (2) Fails to pay any other tax liability at the time the liability is due.
  - (3) Fails to file any tax report or return at the time the report or return is due.
  - (4) Fails to furnish any information requested by the Tax Collector within thirty days after receiving a written request for such information.
  - (5) Fails to notify the Tax Collector of a material improvement in the taxpayer's financial condition above the income previously reported in the most recent income statement within thirty days after the material improvement.
  - (6) Provides inaccurate, false or incomplete information to the Tax Collector.
- (c) Notwithstanding any installment payment agreement, the Tax Collector may offset any tax refunds against the liabilities provided for in the installment payment agreement, may file and perfect any tax liens and, in the event the taxpayer breaches any term or provision of the installment payment agreement, may engage in collection activities.
- (d) The Tax Collector, without notice, may terminate an installment payment agreement if the Tax Collector believes that the collection of tax to which the payment agreement pertains is in jeopardy.
- (e) If the Tax Collector determines that the financial condition of a taxpayer has improved, the Tax Collector may alter, modify or terminate the agreement by providing notice to the taxpayer at least thirty days before the effective date of the action. The notice shall include the reasons why the Tax Collector believes the alteration, modification or termination is appropriate.
- (f) An installment payment agreement shall remain in effect for the term of the agreement except as otherwise provided in this Section.

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<sup>198</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (g) A taxpayer who is aggrieved by a decision of the Tax Collector to refuse to enter into an installment payment agreement or to alter, modify or terminate an agreement entered into pursuant to this Section may petition the Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer to review that determination. The Taxpayer Problem Resolution Officer may stay such alteration, modification or termination pending its review and may modify or nullify the determination.
- (h) The City and the taxpayer may modify any installment payment agreement at any time by entering into a new or modified agreement.

**Sec. 597. Private taxpayer rulings; request; revocation or modification; definition.<sup>199</sup>**

- (a) The Tax Collector shall issue private taxpayer rulings to taxpayers and potential taxpayers on request. Each request shall be in writing and shall:
  - (1) State the name, address and, if applicable, taxpayer identifying number of the taxpayer or potential taxpayer who requests the ruling.
  - (2) Describe all facts that are relevant to the requested ruling.
  - (3) State whether, to the best knowledge of the taxpayer or potential taxpayer, the issue or related issues are being considered by the Tax Collector or any other taxing jurisdiction in connection with an active audit, protest or appeal that involves the taxpayer or potential taxpayer and whether the same request has been or is being submitted to another taxing jurisdiction for a ruling.
  - (4) Be signed by the taxpayer or potential taxpayer who makes the request or by an authorized representative of the taxpayer or potential taxpayer.
- (b) A private taxpayer ruling may be revoked or modified by either:
  - (1) A change or clarification in the law that was applicable at the time the ruling was issued, including changes or clarifications caused by regulations and court decisions.
  - (2) Actual written notice by the Tax Collector to the last known address of the taxpayer or potential taxpayer of the revocation or modification of the private taxpayer ruling.
- (c) With respect to the taxpayer or prospective taxpayer to whom a private taxpayer ruling is issued, the revocation or modification of a private taxpayer ruling shall not be applied retroactively to tax periods or tax years before the effective date of the revocation or modification and the Tax Collector shall not assess any penalty or tax attributable to erroneous advice that is furnished to the taxpayer or potential taxpayer in the private taxpayer ruling if:
  - (1) The taxpayer reasonably relied on the private taxpayer ruling.
  - (2) The penalty or tax did not result either from a failure by the taxpayer to provide adequate or accurate information or from a change in the information.
- (d) A private taxpayer ruling may not be relied upon, cited nor introduced into evidence in

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<sup>199</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

any proceeding by any taxpayer other than the taxpayer who received the ruling.

- (e) A taxpayer may appeal the propriety of a retroactive application of a revoked or modified private taxpayer ruling by filing a written petition with the Tax Collector pursuant to Section 570 within forty-five (45) days after receiving written notice of the intent to retroactively apply a revoked or modified private taxpayer ruling.
- (f) A private taxpayer ruling constitutes the Tax Collector's interpretation of the Sections of this Chapter only as they apply to the taxpayer making, and the particular facts contained in, the request.
- (g) A private taxpayer ruling which addresses a taxpayer's ongoing business activities will apply only to transactions that occur or tax liabilities that accrue from and after the date of the taxpayer's ruling request.
- (h) The Tax Collector shall attempt to issue private taxpayer rulings within forty-five (45) days after receiving the written request and on receiving the facts that are relevant to the ruling. If the ruling is expected to be delayed beyond the forty-five (45) days, the Tax Collector shall notify the requestor of the delay and the proposed date of issuance.
- (i) Within thirty (30) days after being issued, the Tax Collector shall maintain the private taxpayer ruling as a public record and make it available at a reasonable cost for public inspection and copying. The text of private taxpayer rulings are open to public inspection subject to the confidentiality requirements prescribed by Section 510.
- (j) In this Section, "private taxpayer ruling" means a written determination by the Tax Collector issued pursuant to this Section that interprets and applies one or more Sections contained in this Chapter and any applicable regulations.
- (k) A private taxpayer ruling issued by the Arizona Department of Revenue pursuant to A.R.S. Section 42-2101 may be relied upon by the taxpayer to whom the ruling was issued and must be recognized and followed by any City in which such taxpayer has obtained a privilege license if the City has not issued a ruling addressing the facts described in the taxpayer's ruling request and the statute at issue in the taxpayer's ruling request is, in essence, worded and written the same as the applicable Section hereunder.

## Article VI - Use Tax

### **Sec. 600. Use tax: definitions**

For the purposes of this Article only, the following definitions shall apply, in addition to the definitions provided in Article I:

"Acquire (for Storage or Use)" means purchase, rent, lease, or license for storage or use.

"Retailer" also means any person selling, renting, licensing for use, or leasing tangible personal property under circumstances which would render such transactions subject to the taxes imposed in Article IV, if such transactions had occurred within this City.

"Storage (within the City)" means the keeping or retaining of tangible personal property at a place within the City for any purpose, except for those items acquired specifically and solely for the purpose of sale, rental, lease, or license for use in the regular course of business or for the purpose of subsequent use solely outside the City.

"Use (of Tangible Personal Property)" means consumption or exercise of any other right or power over tangible personal property incident to the ownership thereof except the holding for the sale, rental, lease, or license for use of such property in the regular course of business.

### **Sec. 601. (Reserved)**

### **Sec. 602. (Reserved)**

### **Sec. 610. Use tax: imposition of tax; presumption.**

- (a) There is hereby levied and imposed, subject to all other provisions of this Chapter, an excise tax on the storage or use in the City of tangible personal property, for the purpose of raising revenue to be used in defraying the necessary expenses of the City, such taxes to be collected by the Tax Collector.
- (b) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and four and one-half tenths percent (1.45%) of the:
  - (1) Cost of tangible personal property, except jet fuel acquired from a retailer, upon every person storing or using such property in this City.
  - (2) Gross income from the business activity upon every person meeting the requirements of subsection 620(b) or (c) who is engaged or continuing in the business activity of sales, rentals, leases, or licenses of tangible personal property to persons within the City for storage or use within the City, to the extent that tax has been collected upon such transaction.
  - (3) Cost of the tangible personal property provided under the conditions of a warranty, maintenance, or service contract.
  - (4) Cost of complimentary items provided to patrons without itemized charge by a restaurant, hotel, or other business.

- (5) Cost of food consumed by the owner or by employees or agents of the owner of a restaurant or bar subject to the provisions of Section 455 of this Chapter.
- (c) It shall be presumed that all tangible personal property acquired by any person who at the time of such acquisition resides in the City is acquired for storage or use in this City, until the contrary is established by the taxpayer.
- (d) Exclusions. For the purposes of this Article, the acquisition of the following shall not be deemed to be the purchase, rental, lease, or license of tangible personal property for storage or use within the City:
  - (1) Stocks, bonds, options, or other similar materials.
  - (2) Lottery tickets or shares sold pursuant to Article I, Chapter 5, Title 5, Arizona Revised Statutes.
  - (3) Platinum, bullion, or monetized bullion, except minted or manufactured coins transferred or acquired primarily for their numismatic value as prescribed by Regulation.
- (e) (Reserved)
- (f) Additional Imposition. The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to \$.018 cents per gallon of jet fuel upon every person storing or using such property in this City.

**Sec. 620. Use tax: liability for tax.**

The following persons shall be deemed liable for the tax imposed by this Article; and such liability shall not be extinguished until the tax has been paid to this City, except that a receipt from a retailer separately charging the tax imposed by this Chapter is sufficient to relieve the person acquiring such property from further liability for the tax to which the receipt refers:

- (a) Any person who acquires tangible personal property from a retailer, whether or not such retailer is located in this City, when such person stores or uses said property within the City.
- (b) Any retailer not located within the City, selling, renting, leasing, or licensing tangible personal property for storage or use of such property within the City, may obtain a License from the Tax Collector and collect the Use Tax on such transactions. Such retailer shall be liable for the Use Tax to the extent such Use Tax is collected from his customers.
- (c) Every agent within the City of any retailer not maintaining an office or place of business in this City, when such person sells, rents, leases, or licenses tangible personal property for storage or use in this City shall, at the time of such transaction, collect and be liable for the tax imposed by this Article upon the storage or use of the property so transferred, unless such retailer or agent is liable for an equivalent excise tax upon the transaction.
- (d) Any person who acquires tangible personal property from a retailer located in the City and such person claims to be exempt from the City Privilege or Use tax at the time of the transaction, and upon which no City Privilege Tax was charged or paid, when such claim is not sustainable.
- (e) Every person storing or using tangible personal property under the conditions of a warranty, maintenance, or service contract.

**Sec. 630. Use tax: recordkeeping requirements.**

All deductions, exclusions, exemptions, and credits provided in this Article are conditional upon adequate proof of documentation as required by Article III or elsewhere in this Chapter.

**Sec. 640. Use tax: credit for equivalent excise taxes paid another jurisdiction.**

In the event that an equivalent excise tax has been levied and paid upon tangible personal property which is acquired to be stored or used within this City, full credit for any and all such taxes so paid shall be allowed by the Tax Collector but only to the extent Use Tax is imposed upon that transaction by this Article.

**Sec. 650. Use tax: exclusion when acquisition subject to Use Tax is taxed or taxable elsewhere in this Chapter; limitation.**

The tax levied by this Article does not apply to the storage or use in this City of tangible personal property acquired in this City, the gross income from the sale, rental, lease, or license of which were included in the measure of the tax imposed by Article IV of this Chapter; provided, however, that any person who has acquired tangible personal property from a vendor in this City without paying the City Privilege Tax because of a representation to the vendor that the property was not subject to such tax, when such claim is not sustainable, may not claim the exclusion from such Use Tax provided by this Section.

**Sec. 660. Use tax: exemptions.**

The storage or use in this City of the following tangible personal property is exempt from the Use Tax imposed by this Article:

- (a) Tangible personal property brought into the City by an individual who was not a resident of the City at the time the property was acquired for his own use, if the first actual use of such property was outside the City, unless such property is used in conducting a business in this City.
- (b) Tangible personal property, the value of which does not exceed the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per item, acquired by an individual outside the limits of the City for his personal use and enjoyment.
- (c) Charges for delivery, installation, or other customer services, as prescribed by Regulation.
- (d) Charges for repair services, as prescribed by Regulation.
- (e) Separately itemized charges for warranty, maintenance, and service contracts.
- (f) Prosthetics.
- (g) Income-producing capital equipment.
- (h) Rental equipment and rental supplies.
- (i) Mining and metallurgical supplies.



- (j) Motor vehicle fuel and use fuel which are used upon the highways of this State and upon which a tax has been imposed under the provisions of Article I or II, Chapter 16, Title 28, Arizona Revised Statutes.
- (k) Tangible personal property purchased by a construction contractor, but not an owner-builder, when such person holds a valid Privilege License for engaging or continuing in the business of construction contracting, and where the property acquired is incorporated into any structure or improvement to real property in fulfillment of a construction contract.
- (l) Sales of motor vehicles to nonresidents of this State for use outside this State if the vendor ships or delivers the motor vehicle to a destination outside this State.<sup>200</sup>
- (m) Tangible personal property which directly enters into and becomes an ingredient or component part of a product sold in the regular course of the business of job printing, manufacturing, or publication of newspapers, magazines or other periodicals. Tangible personal property which is consumed or used up in a manufacturing, job printing, publishing, or production process is not an ingredient nor component part of a product.
- (n) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of film, tape, or slides by a theater or other person taxed under Section 410, or by a radio station, television station, or subscription television system.
- (o) Food served to patrons for a consideration by any person engaged in a business properly licensed and taxed under Section 455, but not food consumed by owners, agents, or employees of such business.
- (p) Tangible personal property acquired by a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when the property is in fact used in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.<sup>201</sup>
- (q) Food purchased with food stamps provided through the Food Stamp Program established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113; 91 Stat. 958.7 U.S.C. Section 2011 Et Seq.) or purchased with food instruments issued under Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (P.L. 95-627; 92 Stat. 3603; and P.L. 99-669; Section 4302; 42 United States Code Section 1786<sup>202</sup>).
- (r) The following tangible personal property purchased by persons engaging or continuing in the business of farming, ranching, or feeding livestock, poultry or ratites:<sup>203</sup>
  - (1) Seed, fertilizer, fungicides, seed treating chemicals, and other similar chemicals.
  - (2) Feed for livestock, poultry or ratites, including salt, vitamins, and other additives to such feed.
  - (3) Livestock, poultry or ratites purchased or raised for slaughter, but not including livestock purchased or raised for production or use, such as milch cows, breeding bulls, laying hens, riding or work horses.

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<sup>200</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>201</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>202</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>203</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

- (4) Neat animals, horses, asses, sheep, swine, or goats acquired for the purpose of becoming breeding or production stock, including the acquisition of breedings or ownership shares in such animals.

This exemption shall not be construed to include machinery, equipment, fuels, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, repair and replacement parts, or other items used or consumed in the running, maintenance, or repair of machinery, equipment, buildings, or structures used or consumed in the business of farming, ranching, or feeding of livestock, poultry or ratites.

- (s) Groundwater measuring devices required by A.R.S. Section 45-604.
- (t) (Reserved)
- (u) Aircraft acquired for use outside the State, as prescribed by Regulation.<sup>204</sup>
- (v) Sales of food products by producers as provided for by A.R.S. Sections 3-561, 3-562 and 3-563.<sup>205</sup>
- (w) (Reserved)
- (x) (Reserved)
- (y) Tangible personal property donated to an organization or entity qualifying as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C Section 501(c)(3); if and only if:
  - (1) The donor is engaged or continuing in a business activity subject to a tax imposed by Article IV; and
  - (2) The donor originally purchased the donated property for resale in the ordinary course of the donor's business; and
  - (3) The donor obtained from the donee a letter or other evidence satisfactory to the Tax Collector of qualification under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) from the Internal Revenue Service or other appropriate federal agency; and
  - (4) The donor maintains, and provides upon demand, such evidence to the Tax Collector, in a manner similar to other documentation required under Article III.
- (z) (Reserved)
- (aa) Tangible personal property used in remediation contracting as defined in Section 100 and Regulation 100.5. <sup>206</sup>
- (bb) Materials that are purchased by or for publicly funded libraries including school district libraries, charter school libraries, community college libraries, state university libraries or federal, state, county or municipal libraries for use by the public as follows:
  - (1) Printed or photographic materials.
  - (2) Electronic or digital media materials. <sup>207</sup>

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<sup>204</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

<sup>205</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

<sup>206</sup> Amended Ordinance 3091 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

<sup>207</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

- (cc) Food, beverages, condiments and accessories used for serving food and beverages by a commercial airline, as defined in A.R.S. § 42-5061(A)(49), that serves the food and beverages to its passengers, without additional charge, for consumption in flight. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food.<sup>208 209</sup>
- (dd) Wireless telecommunication equipment that is held for sale or transfer to a customer as an inducement to enter into or continue a contract for telecommunication services that are taxable under Section 470.<sup>210</sup>
- (ee) (Reserved)<sup>211</sup>
- (ff) Alternative fuel as defined in A.R.S. § 1-215, by a used oil fuel burner who has received a Department of Environmental Quality permit to burn used oil or used oil fuel under A.R.S. § 49-426 or § 49-480.<sup>212</sup>
- (gg) Food, beverages, condiments and accessories purchased by or for a public educational entity, pursuant to any of the provisions of Title 15, Arizona Revised Statutes; to the extent such items are to be prepared or served to individuals for consumption on the premises of a public educational entity during school hours. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food.<sup>213</sup>
- (hh) Personal hygiene items purchased by a person engaged in the business of and subject to tax under Section 444 of this code if the tangible personal property is furnished without additional charge to and intended to be consumed by the person during his occupancy.<sup>214</sup>
- (ii) The diversion of gas from a pipeline by a person engaged in the business of operating a natural or artificial gas pipeline, for the sole purpose of fueling compressor equipment to pressurize the pipeline, is not a sale of the gas to the operator of the pipeline.<sup>215</sup>
- (jj) Food, beverages, condiments and accessories purchased by or for a non-profit charitable organization that has qualified as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) and regularly serves meals to the needy and indigent on a continuing basis at no cost. For the purposes of this subsection, “accessories” means paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper sacks or other disposable containers, or other items which facilitate the consumption of the food.<sup>216</sup>
- (kk) Sales of motor vehicles that use alternative fuel if such vehicle was manufactured as a diesel fuel vehicle and converted to operate on alternative fuel and sales of equipment that is installed in a conventional diesel fuel motor vehicle to convert the vehicle to

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<sup>208</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>209</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

<sup>210</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>211</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>212</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>213</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>214</sup> Amended Ordinance 3140 Effective July 1, 1998

<sup>215</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>216</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

operate on an alternative fuel, as defined in A.R.S. Section 1-215.<sup>217</sup> <sup>218</sup>

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<sup>217</sup> Amended Ordinance 3385 Effective July 1, 2001

<sup>218</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

## REGULATIONS - PRIVILEGE AND EXCISE TAXES

### **Reg. 100.1. Brokers**

- (a) For the purposes of proper administration of this Chapter and to prevent evasion of taxes imposed, brokers shall be wherever necessary treated as taxpayers for all purposes, and shall file a return and remit the tax imposed on the activity on behalf of the principal. No deduction shall be allowed for any commissions or fees retained by such broker, except as provided in Section 405, relating to advertising commissions.
- (b) Brokers for vendors. A broker acting for a seller, lessor, or other similar person deriving gross income in a category upon which this Chapter imposes a tax shall be liable for such tax, even if his principal would not be subject to the tax if he conducted such activity in his own behalf, by reason of the activity being deemed a "casual" one. For example:
  - (1) An auctioneer or other sales agent of tangible personal property is subject to the tax imposed upon retail sales, even if such sales would be deemed "casual" if his principal had sold such items himself.
  - (2) A property manager is subject to the tax imposed upon rental, leasing, or licensing of real property, even if such rental, leasing, or licensing would be deemed "casual" if his principal managed such real property himself.
- (c) Brokers for vendees. A broker acting solely for a buyer, lessee, tenant, or other similar person who is a party to a transaction which may be subject to the tax, shall be liable for such tax and for filing a return in connection with such tax only to the extent his principal is subject to the tax.
- (d) The liability of a broker does not relieve the principal of liability except upon presentation to the Tax Collector of proof of payment of the tax, and only to the extent of the correct payment. The broker shall be relieved of the responsibility to file and pay taxes upon the filing and correct payment of such taxes by the principal.
- (e) (Reserved)
- (f) Location of Business. Retail sales by brokers acting for another person shall be deemed to have occurred at the regular business location of the broker, in a manner similar to that used to determine "out-of-City sales"; provided, however, that an auctioneer is deemed to be engaged in business at the site of each auction.

### **Reg. 100.2. Delivery, installation, or other direct customer services.**

- (a) "Delivery Charges" exist only when the total charges to the ultimate customer or consumer include, as separately charged to the ultimate customer, charges for delivery to the ultimate consumer, whether the place of delivery is within or without the City, and when the taxpayer's books and records show the separate delivery charges.
  - (1) Identification to the customer or consumer that the listed price has "delivery included" or other similar expression is insufficient to show the delivery as a separate charge. Only the separately stated charge for the delivery shall be deemed a "delivery charge".

- (2) Freight in. Charges for delivery from place of production or the manufacturer to the vendor either directly or through a chain of wholesalers or jobbers or other middlemen are deemed "freight-in" and are not considered delivery.
- (b) "Installation", as used in this definition, relates only to tangible personal property. Installation to real property is deemed construction contracting in this Chapter. Examples of installation relating to tangible personal property are: installing a radio in an automobile; applying sun screens on the windows of a boat; installing cabinets, carpeting, or "built-in appliances" to a camper or motorized recreational vehicle.
- (c) Repair of tangible personal property is not included in this definition. See Regulation 465.1.
- (d) "Direct Customer Services" means services other than repair rendered directly to the customer. Services or labor provided by any person prior to the transfer of tangible personal property to the customer or consumer are not included in this definition. In the following examples, the requirements of subsection (e) below are referred to by the words "identify" or "identification."
- (1) A retailer sells a customer a \$100 "plug-in" appliance, with a \$25 delivery and installation charge. If the retailer identifies the \$25 delivery and installation charge, it is a charge for direct customer services.
- (2) A caterer charges his customer \$1,000 for the food and drink served, \$300 for setup and site cleanup, and \$500 for bartender and waiters. If all charges are properly identified, only the \$300 for set up and cleanup is a charge for direct customer services, and the \$1,500 for food and service is restauranting gross income.
- (3) Persons engaged in engraving on wood, metal, stone, etc. or persons engaged in retouching photographs or paintings may consider such charges for labor as direct customer services.
- (4) All charges by a photographer resulting in the sale of a photograph (sitting charges, developing, making enlargements, retouching, etc.) for services that occur prior to transfer of tangible personal property are not direct customer services.
- (5) An equipment rental company charging \$25 for delivery may consider such delivery charge as a charge for direct customer service only if such charge is properly identified.
- (6) Even if identified, charges for labor incurred in the production of any manufactured article or of a custom-made article (jewelry, artwork, tailoring, draperies, etc.) are not included in this definition, as such labor occurs prior to the transfer of property.
- (e) Recordkeeping requirements.
- (1) Any person who engages in transactions involving these services must:
- (A) Separately bill, invoice, or charge the customer for such services in a manner by which the customer or consumer may readily identify the specific dollar amount of the service charge; and
- (B) Maintain business books and records in a manner in which the separate charge for such services can be clearly identified, to the satisfaction of the

Tax Collector.

- (2) Rendering a statement to a customer for a transaction involving such services and the transfer of tangible personal property which only indicates the total amount of the charges with words such as "services included" or "charge includes labor and parts" or similar a expression does not satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

**Reg. 100.3. Retailers.**

When in the opinion of the Tax Collector it is necessary for efficient administration of this Chapter, he may regard any salesman, representative, peddler, canvasser, or agent of any dealer, distributor, supervisor, or employer under whom he operates or from whom he obtains tangible personal property for sale, rental, lease, or license as a retailer for the purposes of this Chapter, irrespective of whether he is making sales, rentals, leases, or licenses on his own behalf or on behalf of others. The Tax Collector may also regard such dealer, distributor, supervisor, or employer as a retailer for the purposes of this Chapter.

**Reg. 100.4. Out-of-City/out-of-State sales: sales to Native Americans<sup>219</sup>.**

Sales to Native Americans<sup>220</sup> or tribal councils by vendors located within the City shall be deemed sales within the City, unless all of the following conditions exist:

- (1) The vendor has properly accounted for such sales, in a manner similar to the recordkeeping requirements for out-of-City sales; and,
- (2) All of the following elements of the sale exist:
  - (a) Solicitation and placement of the order occurs on the reservation; and
  - (b) Delivery is made to the reservation; and
  - (c) Payment originates from the reservation.

**Reg. 100.5. Remediation Contracting<sup>221</sup>**

The following activities are considered remediation contracting and are exempt:

- (1) Excavation, transportation, treatment, and/or disposal of contaminated soil for purposes of site remediation (rather than characterization);
- (2) Installation of groundwater extraction and/or injection wells for purposes of groundwater remediation;
- (3) Installation of pumps and piping into groundwater extraction wells for remediation purposes;
- (4) Installation of vapor extraction wells for the purpose of soil or groundwater remediation;

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<sup>219</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>220</sup> Amended Ordinance 3260 Effective January 1, 2000

<sup>221</sup> Amended Ordinance 3091 Retroactive to April 1, 1987

- (5) Construction of remediation systems, such as groundwater treatment plants, vapor extraction systems, or air injection systems;
- (6) Connection of remediation systems to utilities;
- (7) Abandonment of groundwater or vapor extraction wells;
- (8) Removal/demolition of remediation systems;
- (9) Capping/closure construction activities; and
- (10) Service or handling charges for subcontracted remediation contracting activities.

**Reg. 115.1. Computer hardware, software, and data services.**

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Computer Hardware" (also called "computer equipment" or "peripherals") is the components and accessories which constitute the physical computer assembly, including but not limited to: central processing unit, keyboard, console, monitor, memory unit, disk drive, tape drive or reader, terminal, printer, plotter, modem, document sorter, optical reader and/or digitizer, network.
- (2) "Computer Software" (also called "computer program") is tangible personal property, and includes:
  - (A) "Operating Program (Software)" (also called "executive program (software)"), which is the programming system or technical language upon which or by means of which the basic operating procedures of the computer are recorded. The operating program serves as an interface with user applied programs and allows the user to access the computer's processing capabilities.
  - (B) "Applied Program (Software)", which is the programming system or technical language (including the tape, disk, cards, or other medium upon which such language or program is recorded) designed either for application in a specialized use, or upon which or by means of which a plan for the solution of a particular problem is based. Typically, applied programs can be transferred from one computer to another via storage media. Examples of applied programs include: payroll processing, general ledger, sales data, spreadsheet, word processing, and data management programs.
- (3) "Storage Medium" is any hard disk, compact disk, floppy disk, diskette, diskpack, magnetic tape, cards, or other medium used for storage of information in a form readable by a computer, but not including the memory of the computer itself.
- (4) A "Terminal Arrangement" (also called "'on-line' arrangement") is any agreement allowing access to a remote central processing unit through telecommunications via hardware.
- (5) A "Computer Services Agreement" (also called "data services agreement") is an agreement allowing access to a computer through a third-party operator.

- (b) For the purposes of this Chapter, transfer of title and possession of the following are deemed sales of tangible personal property and any other transfer of title, possession, or



right to use for a consideration of the following is deemed rental, leasing, or licensing of tangible personal property:

- (1) Computer hardware or storage media. Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of computer hardware or storage media includes the lessee's use of such hardware or storage media on the lessor's premises.
- (2) Computer software which is not custom computer programming. Such prewritten ("canned") programs may be transferred to a customer in the form of punched cards, magnetic tape, or other storage medium, or by listing the program instructions on coding sheets. Transfer is deemed to have occurred whether title to the storage medium upon which the program is recorded, coded, or punched passes to the customer or the program is recorded, coded, or punched on storage medium furnished by the customer. Gross income from the transfer of such prewritten programs includes:
  - (A) The entire amount charged to the customer for the sale, rental, lease, or license for use of the storage medium or coding sheets on which or into which the prewritten program has been recorded, coded, or punched.
  - (B) The entire amount charged for the temporary transfer or possession of a prewritten program to be directly used or to be recorded, coded, or punched by the customer on the customer's premises.
  - (C) License fees, royalty fees, or program design fees; any fee present or future, whether for a period of minimum use or of use for extended periods, relating to the use of a prewritten program.
  - (D) The entire amount charged for transfer of a prewritten ("canned") program by remote telecommunications from the transferor's place of business to or through the customer's computer.
  - (E) Any charge for the purchase of a maintenance contract which entitles the customer to receive storage media on which prewritten program improvements or error corrections have been recorded or to receive telephone or on-site consultation services, provided that:
    - (i) If such maintenance contract is not optional with the customer, then the charges for the maintenance contract, including the consultation services, are deemed gross income from the transfer of the prewritten program.
    - (ii) If such maintenance contract is optional with the customer but the customer does not have the option to purchase the consultation services separately from the storage media containing the improvements or error corrections, then the charges for the maintenance contract, including the consultation services, are deemed gross income from the transfer of the prewritten program.
    - (iii) If such maintenance contract is optional with the customer and the customer may purchase the consultation services separately from the storage media containing the improvements or error corrections, then only the charges for such improvements or error corrections are deemed gross income from the transfer of a prewritten program and charges for consultation are deemed to be charges for professional services.

- (c) Producing the following by means of computer hardware is deemed to be the activity of job printing for the purposes of this Chapter:
  - (1) Statistical reports, graphs, diagrams, microfilm, microfiche, photo recordings, or any other information produced or compiled by a computer; except as provided in subsection (e) below.
  - (2) Additional copies of records, reports, manuals, tabulations, etc. "Additional Copies" are any copies in excess to those produced simultaneously with the production of the original and on the same printer, whether such copies are prepared by running the same program, by using multiple printers, by looping the program, by using different programs to produce the same output, or by other means.
- (d) Charges for the use of communications channel in conjunction with a terminal arrangement or data services agreement are deemed gross income from the activity of providing telecommunication services.
- (e) The following transactions are deemed direct customer services, provided that charges for such services are separately stated and maintained as provided by Regulation 100.2(e):
  - (1) "Custom (Computer) Programming", which is any computer software which is written or prepared for a single customer, including those services represented by separately stated charges for the modification of existing prewritten programs.
    - (A) Custom computer programming is deemed a professional service regardless of the form in which the programming is transferred.
    - (B) Custom programming includes such programming performed in connection with the sale, rental, lease, or license for use of computer hardware, provided that the charges for such are separately stated from the charges for the hardware.
    - (C) Custom computer programming includes a program prepared to the special order of a customer who will use the program to produce copies of the program for sale, rental, lease, or license. The subsequent sale, rental, lease, or license of such a program is deemed the sale, rental, lease, or license of a prewritten program.
  - (2) Training services related to computer hardware or software, provided further that:
    - (A) The provider of such training services is deemed the ultimate consumer of all tangible personal property used in training others or provided to such trainees without separately itemized charge for the materials provided.
    - (B) Training deemed a direct customer service does not include:
      - (i) Training materials, books, manuals, etc. furnished to customers for a charge separate from the charge for training services.
      - (ii) Training provided to customers without separate charge as part of the sale, rental, lease, or license of computer hardware or software, or as part of a terminal arrangement or data services agreement.

- (3) The use of computer time through the use of a terminal arrangement or a data service agreement, but not charges for computer hardware located at the customer's place of business (for example, the terminal, a printer attached to the terminal, a modem used to communicate with the remote central processing unit over a telephone line).
- (4) Compiling and producing, as part of a terminal arrangement or computer services agreement, original copies of statistical reports, graphs, diagrams, microfilm, microfiche, photo recordings, or other information for the same person who supplied the raw data used to create such reports.
- (f) The purchase, rental, lease, or license for use of computer hardware, storage media, or computer software which is not deemed custom programming is deemed the use or storage of tangible personal property for the purpose of this Chapter, and the amount which may be subject to Use Tax shall be determined in the same manner as the determination of the gross income from the sale, rental, lease, or license for use of such.

**Reg. 120.1. (Reserved)**

**Reg. 200.1. When deposits are includable in gross income.<sup>222</sup>**

- (a) Refundable deposits shall be includable as gross income of the taxpayer for the month in which the deposits are forfeited by the lessee.
- (b) Nonrefundable deposits for cleaning, keys, pet fees, maintenance, or for any other purpose are deemed gross income upon receipt.

**Reg. 250.1. Excess tax collected.**

If a taxpayer collects taxes in excess of the combined tax from any customer in any transaction, all such excess tax shall be paid to the taxing jurisdictions in proportion to their effective rates. The right of the taxpayer to charge his customer for his own liability for tax does not allow the taxpayer to enrich himself at the cost of his customers. Tax paid on an activity that is not subject to tax or that qualifies for an exemption, deduction, exclusion or credit is not excess tax collected.<sup>223</sup>

**Reg. 270.1. Proprietary activities of municipalities are not considered activities of a governmental entity.**

The following activities, when performed by a municipality, are considered to be activities of a person engaged in business for the purposes of this Chapter, and not excludable by reason of Section 270:

- (a) Rental, leasing, or licensing for use of real property to other than another department or agency of the municipality.
- (b) Producing, providing, or furnishing electricity, electric lights, current, power, gas (natural or artificial), or water to consumers or ratepayers.

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<sup>222</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>223</sup> Amended Ordinance 3682 Effective October 1, 2005

- (c) Sale of tangible personal property to the public, when similar tangible personal property is available for sale by other persons, as, for example, at police or surplus auctions.
- (d) Providing wastewater removal to consumers or ratepayers, by means of sewers or pipeline, or by any other method.<sup>224</sup>

**Reg. 270.2. Proprietary clubs.**

- (a) Equity requirements. In order to qualify for exclusion under Section 270, a proprietary club must actually be owned by the members. For the purposes of qualification, a club will be deemed to be member-owned if at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the equity of the total amount of club-owned property is owned by bona fide individual members whose membership is represented in the form of shares, certificates, bonds, or other indicia of capital interest. A corporation may be considered an individual owner provided that it owns a membership solely for the benefit of one or more of its employees and it is not engaged in any business activity connected with the operation of the club.
- (b) Gross revenue requirements. In computing gross revenue for the computation of this fifteen percent (15%) rule of subsection 270(c)(1),
  - (1) The following shall be excluded:
    - (A) Membership dues.
    - (B) Membership fees which relate to the general admission to the club on a periodic (or perpetual) basis.
    - (C) Assessments.
    - (D) Special fund raising events, raffles, etc.
    - (E) Donations, gifts, or bequests.
    - (F) Gate receipts, admissions, and program advertising for not more than one tournament in any calendar year.
  - (2) The following must be included:
    - (A) Green fees, court use fees, and similar charges for the actual use of a facility or part thereof.
    - (B) Pro shop sales if the shop is owned by the club.
    - (C) Golf cart rental if the carts are owned by the club.
    - (D) Rentals, percentages, or commissions received for permitting the use of the premises or any portion thereof by a caterer, concessionaire, professional, or any other person for sales, rental, leasing, licensing, catering, food or beverage service, or instruction.
    - (E) All receipts from food or beverage sales, room use or rental charge, corkage and catering charges, and similar receipts.

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<sup>224</sup> Amended Ordinance 2560 Effective July 1, 1993

- (F) Locker and locker room fees and attendants charges if paid to the club.
- (G) Tournament entry fees other than entry fees for the one annual tournament exempt under subsection (b)(1)(F) above.

**Reg. 300.1. Who must apply for a license.**

- (a) For the purposes of determining whether a license is required under Section 300, a person shall be deemed to be "engaged in or continuing in business" within the City, if he meets any of the following conditions:
  - (1) He is engaged in any activity subject to the City's Privilege Taxes as principal or broker.
  - (2) He has or maintains within the City directly, or if a corporation by a subsidiary, an office, distribution house, sales house, warehouse or other place of business, or any agent or other representative operating within this City under the authority of such person or if a corporation its subsidiary, irrespective of whether such place of business or agent or other representative is located here permanently or temporarily or whether such person or subsidiary is authorized or licensed to do business in this State or this City.
  - (3) He is soliciting sales, orders, contracts, leases, and other similar forms of business relationships, within the City from customers, consumers, or users located within the City, by means of salesmen, solicitors, agents, representatives, brokers, and other similar agents or by means of catalogs or other advertising, whether such orders are received or accepted within or without this City.
  - (4) He is regularly engaged in any activity subject to the City's Use Tax; provided, however, that individuals are not normally required to obtain a license because they acquire items outside the City for their own or their family's personal use and enjoyment.
  - (5) (Reserved)
- (b) For the purposes of obtaining a Privilege License, a person who has less than three (3) apartments, houses, trailer spaces, or other lodging spaces available for rent, lease, or license within the State is not considered to be regularly engaged in business and need not obtain a Privilege License; provided, however, if that person is also receiving income from the activity of renting, leasing, or licensing one (1) or more commercial properties or units within a commercial property, he is considered to be regularly engaged in business and must obtain licenses for all his rental, lease, or license property.

**Reg. 300.2. (Reserved)**

**Reg. 310.1. Proration of initial annual license fees.**

- (a) Licensees, subject to the provisions of Section 310(d), whose initial application for a privilege license is received by the Tax Collector after May 28, 2002, will be subject to an initial annual license fee imposed by Section 310(d) on a proration schedule as follows:

<sup>225</sup>

<u>BUSINESS START DATE</u>	<u>APPLICABLE LICENSE FEE</u>
January 1 - March 31	\$50.00
April 1 - June 30	37.50
July 1 - September 30	25.00
October 1 - December 31	12.50

- (b) Licensees, subject to the payment of the annual license fee imposed by Section 310(f) for residential real property, whose initial application for a privilege license is received by the Tax Collector after May 28, 2002, will be subject to an initial annual license fee imposed by Section 310(f) on a proration schedule as follows: <sup>226</sup>

<u>BUSINESS START DATE</u>	<u>APPLICABLE LICENSE FEE</u>
January 1 - March 31	\$2.00 (per unit)
April 1 - June 30	1.50 (per unit)
July 1 - September 30	1.00 (per unit)
October 1 - December 31	.50 (per unit)

**Reg. 310.2. "Casual" exemption of activities from the licensing requirements of Section 310.**

Individuals, other than those engaging in rental of real property, may be considered as engaged in "casual" activities, and not subject to the annual license fee imposed under Section 310, provided that they are engaged in activities such as the private sale of personal automobiles, garage sales, and the sale of homemade artifacts, on no more than three separate occasions during any calendar year.

**Reg. 310.3. Annual license fee for persons engaged in providing transient and non-transient lodging.<sup>227</sup>**

- (a) For the purposes of payment of the annual license fee imposed by Section 310, and this regulation, "primarily used for transient lodging" shall mean actual use of that particular lodging unit as transient lodging at or exceeding eighty-five percent (85%) of total use.
- (b) For the purposes of subsections 310(b) and (b) only, it shall be presumed that each lodging unit is not primarily used for transient lodging and is therefore subject to the two dollar (\$2.00) per unit annual fee, until the contrary is established by the licensee to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.

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<sup>225</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective May 28, 2002

<sup>226</sup> Amended Ordinance 3417 Effective May 28, 2002

<sup>227</sup> Amended Ordinance 3692 Effective January 1, 2007

- (c) A person who is engaged in providing both transient and non-transient lodging shall pay:
  - (1) The two dollar (\$2.00) per unit annual license fee for each unit not primarily used for transient lodging not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50); plus
  - (2) The fifty dollar (\$50.00) per location annual license fee for each location where he is providing units primarily used for transient lodging.

**Reg. 350.1. Recordkeeping: income.**

The minimum records required for persons having gross income subject to, or exempt or excluded from, tax by this Chapter must show:

- (a) The gross income of the taxpayer attributable to any activity occurring in whole or in part in the City.
- (b) The gross income taxable under this Chapter, divided into categories as stated in the official City tax return.
- (c) The gross income subject to Arizona Transaction Privilege Taxes, divided into categories as stated in the official State tax return.
- (d) The gross income claimed to be exempt, and with respect to each activity or transaction so claimed:
  - (1) If the transaction is claimed to be exempt as a sale for resale or as a sale, rental, lease, or license for use of rental equipment:
    - (A) The City Privilege License number and State Transaction Privilege Tax License number of the customer (or the equivalent city, if applicable, and state tax numbers of the city and state where the customer resides), and
    - (B) The name, business address, and business activity of the customer, and
    - (C) Evidence sufficient to persuade a reasonably prudent businessman that the transaction is believed to be in good faith a purchase for resale, or a purchase, rental, lease, or license for use of rental equipment, by the vendee in the ordinary and regular course of his business activity, as provided by Regulation.
  - (2) If the transaction is claimed to be exempt for any other reason:
    - (A) The name, business address, and business activity of the customer, and
    - (B) Evidence which would establish the applicability of the exemption to a reasonably prudent businessman acting in good faith. Ordinary business documentation which would reasonably indicate the applicability of an exemption shall be sufficient to relieve the person on whom the tax would otherwise be imposed from liability therein, if he acts in good faith as provided by Regulation.



- (e) With respect to those allowed deductions or exclusions for tax collected or charges for delivery or other direct customer services, where applicable, evidence that the deductible income has been separately stated and shown on the records of the taxpayer and on invoices or receipts provided to the customer. All other deductions, exemptions, and exclusions shall be separately shown and substantiated.
- (f) With respect to special classes and activities, such other books, records, and documentation as the Tax Collector, by regulation, shall deem necessary for specific classes of taxpayer by reason of the specialized business activity of any such class.
- (g) In all cases, the books and records of the taxpayer shall indicate both individual transaction amounts and totals for each reporting period for each category of taxable, exempt, and excluded income defined by this Chapter.

**Reg. 350.2. Recordkeeping: expenditures.**

The minimum records required for persons having expenditures, costs, purchases and rental or lease or license expenses subject to, or exempt or excluded from, tax by this Chapter are:

- (a) The total price of all goods acquired for use or storage in the City.
- (b) The date of acquisition and the name and business address of the seller or lessor of all goods acquired for use or storage in the City.
- (c) Documentation of taxes, freight, and direct customer service labor separately charged and paid for each purchase, rental, lease, or license.
- (d) The gross price of each acquisition claimed as exempt from tax, and with respect to each transaction so claimed, sufficient evidence to satisfy the Tax Collector that the exemption claimed is applicable.
- (e) As applicable to each taxpayer, documentation sufficient to the Tax Collector, so that he may ascertain:
  - (1) All construction expenditures and all Privilege and Use Taxes claimed paid, relating to owner-builders and speculative builders.
  - (2) Disbursement of collected gratuities and related payroll information required of restaurants.
  - (3) Franchise and license fee payments and computations thereto which relate to:
    - (A) Utility service
    - (B) (Reserved)
  - (4) The validity of any claims of proof of exemption, as provided by Regulation.
  - (5) A claimed alternative prior value for reconstruction.
  - (6) All claimed exemptions to the Use Tax imposed by Article VI of this Chapter.
  - (7) Costs used to compute the "computed charge" claimed for retail service and repair.
  - (8) (Reserved)

- (9) (Reserved)
- (f) Any additional documentation as the Tax Collector, by Regulation, shall deem necessary for any specific class of taxpayer by reason of the specialized business activity of specific exemptions afforded to that class of taxpayer.
- (g) In all cases, the books and records of the taxpayer shall indicate both individual transaction amounts and totals for each reporting period for each category of taxable, exempt, and excluded expenditures as defined by this Chapter.

**Reg. 350.3. Recordkeeping: out-of-City and out-of-State sales.**

- (a) Out-of-City Sales. Any person engaging or continuing in a business who claims out-of-City sales shall maintain and keep accounting records or books indicating separately the gross income from the sales of tangible personal property from such out-of-City branches or locations.
- (b) Out-of-State Sales. Persons engaged in a business claiming out-of-State sales shall maintain accounting records or books indicating for each out-of-State sale the following documentation:
  - (1) Documentation of location of the buyer at the time of order placement; and
  - (2) Documentation of residency of the buyer, determined in the manner one determines if a person "resides within the City"; and
  - (3) Shipping, delivery, or freight documents showing where the buyer took delivery; and
  - (4) Documentation of intended location of use or storage of the tangible personal property sold to such buyer.

**Reg. 360.1. Proof of exemption: sale for resale; sale, rental, lease, or license of rental equipment.**

A claim of purchase for resale or of purchase, rental, lease, or license for rent, lease, or license is valid only if the evidence is sufficient to persuade a reasonably prudent businessman that the particular item is being acquired for resale or for rental, lease, or license in the ordinary course of business. The fact that the acquiring person possesses a Privilege License number, and makes a verbal claim of "sale for resale or lease" or "lease for re-lease" does not meet this burden and is insufficient to justify an exemption. The "reasonable evidence" must be evidence which exists objectively, and not merely in the mind of the vendor, that the property being acquired is normally sold, rented, leased, or licensed by the acquiring person in the ordinary course of business. Failure to obtain such reasonable evidence at the time of the transaction will be a basis for disallowance of any claimed deduction on returns filed for such transactions.

**Reg. 360.2. Proof of exemption: exemption certificate.**

For the purpose of proof of exemption, in transactions other than those in which the proof is set by standard documentation as detailed in Regulations 350.1 and 360.1, the minimum acceptable proof and documentation for each transaction shall be the completion, at the time of the transaction, in all material respects, of a certificate containing all the information set

forth below. For the purpose of validating the vendor's claim of exemption, such certificate is sufficient if executed by any person with apparent authority to act for the customer, and the information provided validates the claim.

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INVALID UNLESS COMPLETED IN FULL

VENDOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Invoice No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer's Exemption Claim  
City of Scottsdale Privilege License (Sales) Tax

Customer's Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Business Activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., if retailer, lessor, or  
manufacturer, specify items \_\_\_\_\_  
leased, sold or made, i.e., \_\_\_\_\_  
cars, computers, clothes, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's License Nos. \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

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ITEMS CLAIMED AS EXEMPT FROM TAX

\_\_\_\_\_: All Items on This Invoice or Purchase Order.

or

\_\_\_\_\_: Only Those Items marked with An "E".

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REASON FOR CLAIMED EXEMPTION:

\_\_\_\_\_: The items claimed as exempt are sold, rented, leased, or licensed by the  
above named customer in the normal course of its business activity.

or

\_\_\_\_\_: The items claimed as exempt are exempt from the City of Scottsdale  
Privilege Tax for the following specific reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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CUSTOMER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above information is accurate to the best of my information and belief, and  
that I am authorized by the Customer above to acquire the items claimed as exempt on a  
tax-free basis on its behalf. I further understand that the making of a false or fraudulent claim  
to obtain a tax exemption is a Class One Misdemeanor under City Code Section 580.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Reg. 405.1. Local advertising examples.**

For the purposes of illustration only, and not by way of limitation, the following are provided as examples of local advertising subject to the tax:

- (1) Retail sales and rental establishments doing business within the State when only one commonly designated business entity is identified by name in the advertisement.
- (2) Financial institutions doing business within the State whether part of a national chain or local business only.
- (3) Sales of real estate located within the State.
- (4) Health care facilities located within the State.
- (5) Hotels, motels, and apartments, whether a national chain or local so long as the advertisement identifies any location within the State.
- (6) Brokers doing business within the State whether stockbrokers, real estate brokers, insurance brokers, etc.
- (7) Non-profit organizations, which even though tax exempt, have an office, whether national, local, or branch, within the State.
- (8) Political activity, except United States Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates.
- (9) Restaurants or food service establishments which have one or more branches, outlets, or franchises within the State even though the local franchisee or licensee may not be responsible for the placement of the advertisement.
- (10) Services provided by individuals or entities within the State such as doctors, lawyers, architects, hairdressers, auto repair shops, counseling services, utilities, contractors, auction houses, etc.
- (11) Coupons redeemable only at a single commonly designated business entity within the State.
- (12) Theater, sports, and other entertainment events held at locations within the State.

**Reg. 405.2. Advertising activity within the City.**

- (a) In General. Except as provided elsewhere in this regulation, a person engaged in advertising activity shall be considered to be doing business entirely within the City if all or a major portion of the dissemination facilities such as broadcasting studios, printing plants, or distribution centers are located within the City limits. Remote studios patched to an in-City studio and subject to engineering modulation or control at the in-City studio are considered studios doing business in the City.
- (b) Billboards and other outdoor advertising companies shall be considered to be doing business within the City to the extent they have billboards or similar displays within the City.

- (c) Publishers and distributors of newspaper and other periodicals shall be subject to the tax upon advertising imposed by Section 405 and such tax shall be allocated in the manner prescribed by subsection (e) of Section 435.

**Reg. 407.1. (Reserved)**

**Reg. 415.1. Distinction between the categories of construction contracting.**

For the purposes of this Chapter, transactions involving improvements to, or sales of, real property are designated into one of the following categories, and these categorizations shall apply, whether or not a person designates himself as a contractor, construction manager, developer, or otherwise:

- (a) A person performing improvements to real property is one of the following:
- (1) An "Owner-Builder" when the work is performed by the owner or lessor or lessee-in-possession. An "owner-builder" may also be a "speculative builder".
  - (2) A "Construction Contractor" when performing work for the owner or lessor or lessee-in-possession of the real property, unless that person has provided a written declaration stating that:
    - (A) The owner-builder is improving the property for sale; and
    - (B) The owner-builder is liable for the tax for such construction contracting activity; and
    - (C) The owner-builder has provided the contractor his City Privilege License number.
  - (3) A "Subcontractor" as provided in Section 415 (c).
- (b) An owner or lessor ("owner-builder") of improved real property is one of the following:
- (1) A "Speculative Builder" as provided in Section 100; or<sup>228</sup>
  - (2) An "owner builder who is not a speculative builder" in all other cases.
- (c) The terms "owner", "lessor", and "lessee-in-possession" shall be deemed to include any authorized agent for such person.

**Reg. 415.2. Distinction between construction contracting and certain related activities.**

- (a) Certain rentals, leases, and licenses for use in connection with construction contracting. Rental, leasing, or licensing of earthmoving equipment with an operator shall be deemed construction contracting activity. Rental, leasing, or licensing of any other tangible personal property (with or without an operator) or of earthmoving equipment without an operator shall be deemed rental, leasing, or licensing of tangible personal property. For example:

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<sup>228</sup> Amended Ordinance 2291 Effective August 1, 1990

- (1) Rental of a backhoe, bulldozer, or similar earthmoving equipment with operator is construction contracting. Rental of these items without an operator is rental of tangible personal property.
  - (2) Rental of scaffolding, temporary fences, or barricades is rental of tangible personal property.
  - (3) Rental of pumps or cranes is rental of tangible personal property, whether or not an operator is provided with the equipment rented.
- (b) Distinction between construction contracting, retail, and certain direct customer service activities.
- (1) When an item is attached or installed on real property, it is a construction contracting activity and any subsequent repair, removal, or replacement of that item is construction contracting.
  - (2) Items attached or installed on tangible personal property are retail sales.
  - (3) Transactions where no tangible personal property is attached or installed are considered direct customer service activities (for example: carpet cleaning, lawn mowing, landscaping maintenance).
  - (4) Demolition, earth moving, and wrecking activities are considered construction contracting.
- (c) Sale of consumable goods incorporated into or applied to real property is considered a retail sale and not construction contracting. Examples of consumable goods are lubricants, faucet washers, and air conditioning coolant, but not paint.
- (d) Installation or removal of tangible personal property which has independent functional utility is considered a retail activity.
- (1) "Tangible personal property which has independent functional utility" must be able to substantially perform its function(s) without attachment to real property. "Attachment to real property" must include more than connection to water, power, gas, communication, or other service.
  - (2) Examples of tangible personal property which has independent functional utility include artwork, furnishings, "plug-in" kitchen equipment, or similar items installed by bolts or similar fastenings.
  - (3) Examples of tangible personal property which does not have independent functional utility include wall-to-wall carpeting, flooring, wallpaper, kitchen cabinets, or "built-in" dishwashers or ranges.
  - (4) The installation of window coverings (drapes, mini-blinds, etc.) is always a retail activity.

**Reg. 415.3 Construction contracting; Tax rate effective date.** <sup>229</sup>

- (a) In the event of a tax rate change, the rate imposed on gross income from construction contracting shall be computed based upon the rate in effect when the contract was

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<sup>229</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

executed, subject to the "enactment date: as defined in this section. Gross income from a contract executed prior to the enactment date shall not be subject to the tax rate change, provided the contract contains no provision that entitles the construction contractor to recover the amount of the tax.

- (b) In the event of a rate increase, in order to qualify for the lower rate, the construction contractor shall, upon request, provide sufficient documentation, in a manner and form prescribed by the Tax Collector, to verify that a contract was entered into before the enactment date.
- (c) For purposes of this Section, "enactment date" shall be:
  - (1) In the event an election is held, the date of the election.
  - (2) In the event no election is held, the date of final adoption by the mayor and council.
  - (3) Notwithstanding the above, nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the City from establishing a later enactment date.

**Reg. 416.1. Speculative builders: homeowner's bona fide non-business sale of a family residence.**

- (a) A sale of a custom home, regardless of the stage or completion of such home shall be considered a "homeowner's bona fide non-business sale" and not subject to the tax on speculative builders if:<sup>230</sup>
  - (1) The property was actually used as the principal place of family residence or vacation residence by the immediate family of the seller for the six (6) months next prior to the offer for sale; and
  - (2) The seller has not sold more than two (2) such residences (or, if the residence is a vacation residence, two (2) such vacation residences) within the thirty-six (36) months immediately prior to the offer for sale; and
  - (3) The seller has not licensed, leased, or rented the sold premises for any period within twenty-four (24) months prior to the offer for sale.
- (b) In the event that a homeowner of a family residence contracts with a licensed construction contractor for improvements to a residence, the construction contracting on a family residence shall be presumed to be for an owner's bona fide non-business purpose and all construction contractors shall be required to report and pay the tax imposed on all such improvements.<sup>231</sup>
- (c) Purchases by a homeowner of tangible personal property for inclusion in any construction, alteration, or repair of his residence shall be subject to tax as retail sales to the ultimate consumer.
- (d) "Owner" and "Homeowner" as used in this Regulation shall only mean an individual, and no other entity, association, or representative shall qualify; except that an administrator, executor, personal representative, or guardian in guardianship or probate proceedings, for the estate of a deceased or incompetent person or a minor, may claim "homeowner"

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<sup>230</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>231</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995



status for such person if such person would have otherwise qualified with respect to the specific property involved.

**Reg. 416.2. Reconstruction contracting.**

- (a) "Reconstruction (of Real Property)" shall mean the subdividing of real property and, in addition, all construction contracting activities performed upon said real property; provided, however, that each of the following conditions are met:
- (1) A structure existed on said real property prior to the reconstruction activity; and
  - (2) The "prior value" of said structure exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the "prior value" of the integrated property (land, improvements, and structure); and
  - (3) The total cost of all construction contracting activities performed on said real property in the twenty-four (24) month period prior to the sale of any part of the real property exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the "prior value" of the real property; and
  - (4) The structure which existed on the real property prior to the reconstruction activity still exists in some form upon the property, and is included, in whole or in part, in the property sold.
- (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) below, "prior value" means the value of the total integrated property, with improvements, as existing immediately prior to any reconstruction activity. Where, according to Title 42 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, a property's full cash value for secondary tax purposes is intended to represent the property's fair market value, "prior value" shall be the property's full cash value for secondary property tax purposes as determined by the County Assessor in the year immediately preceding the year in which the reconstruction improvement(s) are or could have been included in the County Assessor's valuation. If the County Assessor's valuation is contested or appealed, the final determination at either the administrative or judicial level shall apply. Where, according to Title 42 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, a property's full cash value for secondary property tax purposes is not intended to represent the property's fair market value, "prior value" shall be the property's fair market value prior to the reconstruction improvement(s).<sup>232</sup>
- (c) "Alternative Prior Value" shall mean that as an alternative to the "prior value" defined above, the taxpayer may use his actual cost of the reconstructed property prior to reconstruction, provided that evidence of such cost is presented to the Tax Collector and is determined by the Tax Collector, in his sole discretion, to be satisfactory. Such evidence shall consist, at a minimum, of proof of the actual, arms-length acquisition price, accompanied by a full appraisal of all property involved which appraisal shall have been performed by a real estate broker or MAI appraiser specifically for the purpose of assisting in the acquisition and further shall have been performed on behalf of the seller or a lending institution which has lent at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the acquisition price. (Only long term lending - not interim or construction financing will be considered.) This alternative value shall be used only if the property was acquired by the reconstruction taxpayer not more than thirty-six (36) months prior to a "sale" as defined below.
- (d) A "sale" for the purpose of determining "alternative prior value" or "reconstruction" only shall be deemed to have occurred as of the date of the execution of a contract of sale or a

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<sup>232</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

deed (joint tenancy or warranty) whichever is earlier, to a purchaser or grantee of any single residential or other occupancy unit. In addition to the foregoing, a lease with option to purchase a single residential unit shall be considered a "sale" at the date of execution of such lease if said option is exercisable by the lessee in not later than nine (9) months. Further in the case of cooperative apartments, the sale date shall be the date of execution of the contract selling (subject or not to encumbrances, liens or security interests) of a share, or a sufficient number of shares which entitle the purchaser to the occupancy of a residential unit. In all cases a person shall include a husband and wife as a community, or any co-occupants of a single unit as joint tenants.

**Reg. 425.1. Distinction between job printing and certain related activities.**

- (a) Computerized Printing. Computerized versions of all items which would be taxable under Section 425 if performed without computerized assistance are considered taxable under that Section, and therefore, are not exempt services.
- (b) Book publishing. The printing of books shall be deemed job printing. Sales of books shall be deemed retail sales.
- (c) Publication of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals shall not be considered job printing for the purposes of this Chapter.

**Reg. 435.1. Distinction between publishing of periodicals and certain related activities.**

- (a) Book publishing shall not be considered publication of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals for purposes of this Chapter. Sales of books shall be deemed retail sales. The printing of books shall be deemed job printing.
- (b) Publication of newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals shall not be considered job printing for the purposes of this Chapter.

**Reg. 435.2. Advertising income of publishers and distributors of newspapers and other periodicals.**

Publishers and distributors of newspapers and other periodicals shall be subject to the tax upon advertising imposed by Section 405 and such tax shall be allocated in the manner prescribed by subsection (e) of Section 435.

**Reg. 445.1. When the rental, leasing, and licensing of real property is exempt as "casual".**

- (a) The person who has less than three (3) apartments, houses, trailer spaces, or other lodging spaces rented, leased or licensed or available for rent, lease, or license within the State and no units of commercial property for rent, lease, or license within the State is deemed not to be in the business of renting, leasing, or licensing real property, and is therefore exempt from the tax imposed by Section 445 on such income. However, a person who has one (1) or more units of any other real property is deemed to be in the business of renting, leasing, or licensing real property, and subject to the tax imposed by Section 445 on rental, lease, and license income from all such lodging spaces and commercial units of real estate even though said person may have fewer than three (3)

lodging spaces within the State.<sup>233</sup>

(b) (Reserved)

**Reg. 445.3. Rental, leasing, and licensing of real property as lodging: room and board; furnished lodging.**

(a) Room and board.

- (1) Rooming houses, lodges, or other establishments providing both lodging and meals, shall maintain a record of the separate charges made for the lodging and the meals.
- (2) The charge for lodging shall be subject to the tax imposed by Section 444 or Section 445. The charge for meals is subject to the tax upon restaurants and bars prescribed by Section 455.<sup>234</sup>

(b) Furnished lodging. A person who provides lodging with furnishings shall be deemed to be only in the business of rental, leasing, and licensing of lodging, and not in the business of rental, leasing, and licensing of such furnishings as tangible personal property, unless:

- (1) Any tenant of any lodging space may choose to rent, lease, or license such lodging space either furnished or unfurnished; and
- (2) The lessor separately charges tenants for lodging and for furnishings; and
- (3) The lessor separately maintains his gross income from lodging and from furnishings separately in his accounting books and records.

If all of the above conditions are met, such person shall report both sources of income separately to the City.

**Reg. 450.1. Distinction between rental, leasing, and licensing for use of tangible personal property and certain related activities.**

(a) Certain rentals, leases, and licenses for use in connection with construction contracting. Rental, leasing, or licensing of earthmoving equipment with an operator shall be deemed construction contracting activity. Rental, leasing, or licensing of any other tangible personal property (with or without an operator) or of earthmoving equipment without an operator shall be deemed rental, leasing, or licensing of tangible personal property. For example:

- (1) Rental of a backhoe, bulldozer, or similar earthmoving equipment with operator is construction contracting. Rental of these items without an operator is rental of tangible personal property.
- (2) Rental of scaffolding, temporary fences, or barricades is rental of tangible personal property.
- (3) Rental of pumps or cranes is rental of tangible personal property, regardless of

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<sup>233</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

<sup>234</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

whether or not an operator is included with the equipment rented.

- (b) Distinction between equipment rental, leasing, or licensing for use and transporting for hire. The hiring of mobile equipment (cranes, airplanes, limousines, etc.) is considered rental, leasing, or licensing of tangible personal property whenever the charge is for a fixed sum or hourly rate. By comparison, the activity of a common carrier conveying goods or persons for a fee based upon distance, and not time, shall be considered transporting for hire.

**Reg. 450.2. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of tangible personal property: membership fees; other charges.**

- (a) Membership, admission, or other fees charged by any rental club or limited access lessor are considered part of taxable gross income.
- (b) Gross income from rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property must include all charges by the lessor to the lessee for repair, maintenance, or other service upon the tangible personal property rented, leased, or licensed.
- (c) Sale of a warranty, maintenance, or service contract as a requirement of, or in conjunction with, a rental, leasing, or licensing contract is exempt.<sup>235</sup>

**Reg. 450.3. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of equipment with operator.**

In cases where the tangible personal property is rented, leased, or licensed with an operator provided by the lessor, the charge for the operator shall not be includable in the gross income from the rental, lease, or license of such tangible personal property if the charge for the operator and the charge for the use of the equipment are separately itemized to the lessee and separately maintained on the books and records of the lessor.

**Reg. 450.4. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of tangible personal property: semi-permanently or permanently installed tangible personal property.**

- (a) The term "semi-permanently or permanently installed" means that the item of tangible personal property has and is expected to have at the time of installation a permanent location at the site installed, as under a long-term lease agreement, except that the person using or applying said property may eventually replace it because it has become worn out or has become obsolete or the person ceases to have the right to possession of said property.
- (b) An item of tangible personal property is deemed permanently installed if its installation requires alterations to the premises.
- (c) Examples of "semi-permanently or permanently installed tangible personal property" include, but are not limited to: computers, duplicating machines, furniture not of portable design, major appliances, store fixtures.
- (d) The term does not include mobile transportation equipment or tangible personal property designed for regular use at different locations or customarily used at different locations, as under numerous short-term rental, lease, or license agreements, whether or not such property is in fact so used.

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<sup>235</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

- (1) For example, use of a mobile crane, trencher, automobile, or other similar equipment shall be considered a rental, lease, or license transaction subject to taxation only by the city or town in which such business office of the lessor is based.
  - (2) Other similar examples include, but are not limited to: camping equipment, contracting equipment, chain saw, forklift, household items, invalid needs, janitorial equipment, reducing equipment, furniture of portable design, trucks or trailers, tools, towbars, sump pumps, arc welders.
- (e) A rental, lease, or license agreement which specifies that the item in question shall remain, under the terms of the agreement, located within the same city or town for more than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days shall be sufficient evidence that such rented, leased, or licensed item is "permanently or semi-permanently installed" in said city or town, except when the item is mobile transportation equipment or one of the other types of portable equipment or property described in subsection (d) above.

**Reg. 450.5 Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of tangible personal property: delivery, installation, repair, and maintenance charges.**

- (a) Delivery and installation charges in connection with the rental, leasing, and licensing of tangible personal property are exempt from the tax imposed by Section 450; provided that the provisions of Regulation 100.2 have been met.
- (b) Gross income from the sale of a warranty, maintenance, or similar service contract in connection with the rental, leasing, and licensing of tangible personal property shall be exempt.<sup>236</sup>
- (c) Separately stated charges for repair not included as part of a warranty, maintenance, or similar service contract relating to the rental, leasing, or licensing of tangible personal property are exempt from the tax imposed by Section 450; however, such income is subject to the provisions of Sections 460 and 465, and the provisions of Regulation 465.1.

**Reg. 455.1. Gratuities related to restaurant activity.**

Gratuities charged by or collected by persons subject to the tax imposed by Section 455 may be excluded from gross income if:

- (1) Such charge is separately stated upon the bill, invoice, etc. provided the customer, and such amounts are maintained separately in the books and records of the taxpayer; and
- (2) Such gratuities are distributed in total to employees of the taxpayer in addition to customary and regular wages.

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<sup>236</sup> Amended Ordinance 2967 Effective January 1, 1997

**Reg. 460.1. Distinction between retail sales and certain other transfers of tangible personal property.**

- (a) Charges for transfer of tangible personal property included in the gross income of the business activity of persons engaged in the following business activities shall be deemed only as gross income from such business activity and not sales at retail taxed by Section 460:
  - (1) Tangible personal property incorporated into real property as part of reconstruction or construction contracting, per Sections 415 through 418.
  - (2) Sales of feed at wholesale, per Section 420.
  - (3) Job printing, per Section 425.
  - (4) Mining, timbering, and other extraction, but not sales of sand, gravel, or rock extracted from the ground, per Section 430.
  - (5) Publication of newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals, per Section 435.
  - (6) Rental, leasing, and licensing of real or tangible personal property, per Sections 445 or 450.
  - (7) Restaurants and bars, per Section 455.
  - (8) Telecommunications services, per Section 470.
  - (9) Utility services, per Section 480.
  - (10) Wastewater removal services, per Section 485.<sup>237</sup>
- (b) Distinction between construction contracting, retail, and certain direct customer service activities.
  - (1) When an item is attached or installed on real property, it is a construction contracting activity and any subsequent repair, removal, or replacement of that item is construction contracting.
  - (2) Items attached or installed on tangible personal property are retail sales.
  - (3) Transactions where no tangible personal property is attached or installed are considered direct customer service activities (for example: carpet cleaning, lawn mowing, landscape maintenance).
  - (4) Demolition, earth moving, and wrecking activities are considered construction contracting.
- (c) The sale of sand, rock, and gravel extracted from the ground shall be deemed a sale of tangible personal property and not mining or metallurgical activity.
- (d) Sale of consumable goods incorporated into or applied to real property is considered a retail sale and not construction contracting. Examples of consumable goods are lubricants, faucet washers, and air conditioning coolant, but not paint.

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<sup>237</sup> Amended Ordinance 2560 Effective July 1, 1993

- (e) Installation or removal of tangible personal property which has independent functional utility is considered a retail activity.
- (1) "Tangible personal property which has independent functional utility" must be able to substantially perform its function(s) without attachment to real property. "Attachment to real property" must include more than connection to water, power, gas, communication, or other service.
  - (2) Examples of tangible personal property which has independent functional utility include artwork, furnishings, "plug-in" kitchen equipment, or similar items installed by bolts or similar fastenings.
  - (3) Examples of tangible personal property which does not have independent functional utility include wall-to-wall carpeting, flooring, wallpaper, kitchen cabinets, or "built-in" dishwashers or ranges.
  - (4) The installation of window coverings (drapes, mini-blinds, etc.) is always a retail activity.

**Reg. 460.2. Retail sales: trading stamp company transactions.**

A trading stamp transaction is defined as follows: the trading stamp company issues stamps to a vendor; the vendor then provides them to its customers; and the customer then exchanges the stamps for merchandise from the trading stamp company.

The exchange transaction for the merchandise shall be deemed a retail sale and the trading stamp company a retailer. All taxes imposed by this Chapter applicable to retail transactions are therefore applicable to such exchange transactions.

The rate of tax shall be the retail rate based upon the retail dollar value of the redeemed merchandise as expressed in the redemption dollar value per book of stamps or portion thereof. The tax imposition described herein is in lieu of any Privilege or Use Tax upon the business of issuing stamps, redeeming the same, or using or storing property redeemed.

**Reg. 460.3. Retail sales: membership fees of retailers.**

Membership, admission, or other fees charged by limited access retailers are considered part of taxable gross income of the business activity of selling tangible personal property.

**Reg. 460.4. Retail sales: professional services.**

- (a) "Professional Services" refer to services rendered by such persons as doctors, lawyers, accountants, architects, etc. for their customers or clients where the services meet particular needs of a specific client and only apply in the factual context of the client and the final product has no retail value in itself. For example, opinion letters, workpapers, reports, etc. are not in a form which would be subject to retail sales to customers. However, transfer of items in a form which would be subject to retail sales (e.g., artwork, forms, manuals, etc.) would not be considered professional services. The issue is one of fact which must be resolved in each situation.
- (b) Creative ("idea") labor and design labor that do not result in tangible personal property that will be or can be sold are deemed professional services and, if charged separately

and maintained separately in the taxpayer's books and records, are not includable in gross income.

- (c) "Professional services" shall be deemed to include those items of tangible personal property which are incidental to the services rendered, provided such tangible personal property is "inconsequential".

- (1) Incidental transfers of tangible personal property shall be regarded as "inconsequential" if,

- (A) The purchase price of the tangible personal property to the person rendering the professional services represents less than fifteen percent (15%) of the charge, billing, or statement rendered to the purchaser in connection with the transaction, and

- (B) The tangible personal property transferred is not itself in a form which is subject to retail sale.

- (2) In cases where the tangible personal property transferred is deemed inconsequential, the provider of the tangible personal property so transferred is deemed the ultimate consumer of such tangible personal property, and subject to all applicable taxes imposed by this Chapter upon such transfer.

- (d) Examples:

- (1) The transfer of paper embodying the result or work product of the services rendered by an attorney or certified public accountant is regarded as inconsequential to the charges for professional services.

- (2) An appraisal report issued by an appraiser, reflecting such appraiser's efforts to appraise real estate, is regarded inconsequential.

- (3) Use of a hair care product on a client's hair by a barber or beautician in connection with performing professional services is usually inconsequential. On the other hand, if the barber or beautician supplies the customer with a bottle of the product for the client's use thereafter and without the professional's assistance, the transfer of the bottle of hair care product is deemed not inconsequential.

- (4) If a mortician properly segregates his professional services from other taxable activities on his bill (invoice, contract), his gross income would include only the income derived from the sale of tangible personal property (casket, cards, flowers, etc.) and rental, leasing, or licensing of real and tangible personal property. His charges for professional services (embalming, cosmetic work, etc.) would not be includable in gross income.

**Reg. 460.5. Retail sales: monetized bullion; numismatic value of coins.**

- (a) "Monetized Bullion" means coins or other forms of money manufactured or minted from precious metals or other metals and issued as legal tender or a medium of exchange by or for any government authorized to do so.

- (b) Any coin shall be considered to have been transferred or acquired primarily for its "Numismatic value" if the sale or acquisition price:



- (1) Is equal to or greater than twice (2 times) the value of the metallic content of the coin as of the date of transfer or acquisition; and
- (2) Is equal to or greater than twice (2 times) its face value, in the case of a coin which, at the time of transfer or acquisition, was legal tender or a medium of exchange of the government issuing or authorizing its issuance.

**Reg. 460.6. Retail sales: consignment sales.**

Sales of merchandise acquired on consignment are taxable as retail sales. In cases where the merchant is acting as an agent on behalf of another dealer, sales of the consigned merchandise are taxable to the principal, provided the merchant makes full disclosure to customers that he is acting only as an agent for the named principal. However, when the principal is not deemed to be a dealer, such sales are considered to be those of the merchant and are taxable to him.

**Reg. 465.1. Retail sales: repair services.**

- (a) Fair market value of parts and labor charges. The Tax Collector may examine the reporting of all transactions covered by this Section to determine if an "arms-length" price is charged for the parts and materials. The applicable tax may not be avoided by pricing a part, which ordinarily sells to the customer at \$10, at \$5 and including the difference as "service" or "labor". In the absence of satisfactory evidence supplied by the taxpayer as to industry or business practice, the Tax Collector may use the cost of the part or materials to the taxpayer marked up by a reasonable profit, to estimate the gross income subject to tax.
- (b) Notwithstanding Regulation 350.1(e),
  - (1) In the case where the taxpayer does not normally and regularly sell items of tangible personal property apart from a repair transaction, the taxpayer may determine the sale price of the tangible personal property transferred by means of a "computed charge". The "computed charge" shall be the sum of the cost of the item of tangible personal property transferred, plus a "reasonable markup." The "reasonable markup" shall be that amount needed to achieve a representative retail price for which such items of tangible personal property are normally sold at retail by comparable businesses within the State (not under circumstances involving the combination of such sale with the providing of repair services). The taxpayer shall have the initial responsibility of determining such reasonable markup, and providing to the Tax Collector, if requested, the basis for his determination.
  - (2) In the event that there is a disagreement between the Tax Collector and the taxpayer as to the proper determination of the "computed charges", the burden shall be upon the taxpayer to satisfy the Tax Collector, the Hearing Officer in the event of a hearing, or the court in any subsequent court action involving an assessment, of the validity of the taxpayer's method of determination of such "computed charges". The determination by the Tax Collector as to the proper "computed charge" shall be considered valid, and shall be sustained unless it is proven by the taxpayer that such determination is arbitrary and unreasonable.

**Reg. 465.2. Retail sales: warranty, maintenance, and similar service contracts.**

- (a) Gross income from sales of warranty, maintenance, and service contracts is exempt from

the tax imposed by Section 460.

- (b) Transfers of tangible personal property in connection with a service, warranty, guaranty, or maintenance agreement between a vendor and a vendee shall be subject to tax under Section 460 only to the extent of gross income received from separately itemized charges made for the items of property transferred.
- (c) The gross income derived from a maintenance insurance agreement, which agreement is entered into between the purchaser and any person other than the seller is not subject to tax imposed by Section 460. If the provider of the maintenance insurance agreement pays for tangible personal property on behalf of the insured in the performance of the agreement, such sales are subject to all applicable taxes imposed by this Chapter.
- (d) Charges for tangible personal property provided under the terms of a warranty, maintenance, or service contract exempted under Section 465 are subject to tax as retail sales.
- (e) However, gross income received by a dealer from a manufacturer for work performed under a manufacturer's warranty is not taxable under Section 460.

**Reg. 465.3. Retail sales: sale of containers, paper products, and labels.<sup>238</sup>**

- (a) The sale of a container or similar packaging material which contains personal property and which is transferred to the customer with the sale of the product is not taxable as a sale for resale. Examples of such nontaxable containers include but are not limited to:
  - (1) Packaging materials sold to a manufacturer of video equipment for containment of the product during shipment.
  - (2) Cellophane-type wrap sold to a meat department or butcher for containment of the individually wrapped or contained meat.
  - (3) Bags used to contain loose fungible goods such as fruits, vegetables, and other products sold in bulk, where such bags or containers are used to contain and measure the amount purchased by the customer.
  - (4) Shopping bags and similar merchandising bags sold to grocery stores, department stores or other retailers.
  - (5) Gift wrappings and gift boxes sold to department stores or other retailers.
- (b) Sales of non-returnable or disposable paper (and similar products such as plastic or styrofoam) cups, lids, plates, bags, napkins, straws, knives, forks and other similar food accessories to a restaurant or others taxable under Section 455 for transfer by the restaurant to its customer to contain or facilitate the consumption of the food, drink or condiment are sales for resale and not taxable.
- (c) Where a retailer imposes a charge for gift wrapping and the charge includes the container, paper, and other appropriate materials, the wrapping charge shall be considered a sale.
- (d) Charges for returnable containers, where the charges are imposed on the customer, are subject to tax at the time of the transaction. A credit may be taken for the amount of

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<sup>238</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective January 31, 1995

refund after such refund is made.

- (e) The sale of labels to a purchaser who affixes them to a primary container is a sale for resale and not taxable. Directional or instructional material included with products sold are considered to be part of the product and a sale for resale. However, the sale of items such as price tags, shipping tags, and advertising matter delivered to the customer in connection with the retail sale is taxable to the retailer as a retail sale to it, and is not exempt as a sale for resale.

**Reg. 465.4. Retail sales: aircraft acquired for use outside the State.<sup>239</sup>**

"Aircraft acquired for use outside the State" means aircraft, navigational and communication instruments, and other accessories and related equipment sold to:

- (a) Any foreign government for use by such government outside of this State.
- (b) Persons who are not residents of this State and who will not use such property in this State other than in removing such property from this State. This subsection also applies to corporations that are not incorporated in this State, regardless of maintaining a place of business in this State, if the principal corporate office is located outside this State and the property will not be used in this State other than in removing the property from this State.

**Reg. 470.1. Telecommunication services.**

- (a) Gross income from the business activity of providing telecommunication services to consumers within this City shall not include:
  - (1) Charges for installation, maintenance, and repair of telecommunication equipment which are subject to the provisions of Sections 415, 416, or 417 (construction contracting); 445 (real property rental); 450 (tangible personal property rental); or 460 (retail sales); depending upon the nature of the work performed.
  - (2) Separately billed advertising charges which are subject to the provisions of Section 405 or 435.
- (b) Mobile equipment. In cases where the customer is being provided telecommunication services to receiving/transmission equipment designed to be mobile in nature (for example, mobile telephones, portable hand-held two-way radios, paging devices, etc.), the provider shall, for the purposes of the tax imposed by this Section, determine whether such provider's customers are "within this City" as follows:
  - (1) By the billing address of the customer, provided that such address is a permanent residence or business location of the consumer within the State.
  - (2) In all other cases, the business location of the telecommunications provider.

**Reg. 475.1. Distinction between transporting for hire and certain related activities.**

The hiring of mobile equipment (cranes, airplanes, limousines, etc.) is deemed rental, leasing, or licensing for use of tangible personal property whenever the charge is for a fixed sum or

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<sup>239</sup> Amended Ordinance 2728 Effective June 30, 1995

hourly rate. By comparison, the activity of a common carrier conveying goods or persons for a fee based upon distance, and not time, shall be considered transporting for hire.

**Reg. 520.1. Reports made to the City.**

- (a) Each taxpayer shall provide, as a minimum, all of the following when reporting taxes due as provided in this Chapter:
  - (1) Legal business name of the taxpayer or his agent.
  - (2) Mailing address of the taxpayer.
  - (3) City Privilege License number of the taxpayer.
  - (4) Period of time for which the report is intended.
  - (5) For each category of income to which the taxpayer is subject, for the reporting period, as provided on the official City tax return:
    - (A) All amounts subject to, excluded from, exempt from, or deductible from the tax imposed upon that category of business activity, summarized in total as "gross receipts" of that category of business activity.
    - (B) The total amount claimed as excludable, exempted, or deducted from such "gross receipts", itemized as provided on the official City tax return, and summarized in total as "total deductions" for that category.
    - (C) The difference between such "gross receipts" and "total deductions" as "net taxable" for that category.
    - (D) The tax due and payable for that category.
  - (6) That total amount subject to Use Tax, summarized as "net taxable", and the Use Tax due and payable for that reporting period.
  - (7) Any excess tax collected which is due and payable.
  - (8) Any claimed tax credits against taxes due and payable.
  - (9) Total amount remitted with the return.
  - (10) A statement verifying that the information provided on the return is accurate to the best of the preparer's knowledge. Such statement must be accompanied by a dated signature of the preparer, and also show the preparer's title or relationship to the taxpayer.
  - (11) The Tax Collector may prescribe and will notify taxpayers of alternative methods for signing, subscribing or verifying any report or statement required to be filed, including but not limited to electronic signatures and/or security codes, and such methods shall have the same validity and consequence as the actual signature or written declaration of the taxpayer or other person require to sign, subscribe or verify the return, statement or other document. <sup>240</sup>

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<sup>240</sup> Amended Ordinance 3539 Effective January 7, 2004

**Reg. 520.2. Change of method of reporting.**

- (a) Any taxpayer electing to change his reporting method shall be permitted to do so only upon filing a written request to the Tax Collector and after receiving written approval of the Tax Collector. The approval shall state the effective date of the change.
- (b) The Tax Collector may postpone such approval to allow for examination of the records of the taxpayer and may further require that all tax liability be satisfied up to the effective date of the change.
- (c) Failure of the taxpayer to notify the Tax Collector and await approval before changing the method of reporting will subject the taxpayer to interest and penalties if his original method of reporting would produce higher taxes due the City. When a person makes such change without the consent of the Tax Collector, the Tax Collector may audit his books and records to verify the tax liability as of the date of the change.
- (d) Any taxpayer who has failed to indicate a choice of reporting method upon the application for a Privilege License shall be deemed to have chosen the accrual method of reporting.

**Reg. 555.1. Administrative Request for the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents; service thereof; remedies and penalties for failure to respond.**

- (a) If a taxpayer refuses or fails to comply in whole or in part with a request to provide records authorized by Section 555, the Tax Collector may issue his written Administrative Request which shall:
  - (1) Designate the individual to provide information.
  - (2) Describe specifically or generally the information to be provided, and any documents sought to be examined.
  - (3) State the date, time, and place in which the individual shall appear before the Tax Collector to provide the information and to produce the documents sought.
  - (4) Be directed to:
    - (A) Any director, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the person sought to be examined; or
    - (B) Any independent accountant, accounting firm, bookkeeping or financial service retained or employed by such person for any purpose connected with business activity subject to taxation; or
    - (C) Any other person who, in the opinion of the Tax Collector, has knowledge of facts bearing upon any tax liability of the person or taxpayer from whom information is sought.
- (b) The failure of a taxpayer to comply with reasonable requests for records without good reason or cause may, in the exercise of judicial discretion by a court, be held to constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

**Reg. 571.1. Collection of tax in jeopardy.**

Evidence that collection of tax due is in jeopardy shall include documentation that:

- (a) The taxpayer is going out of business.
- (b) The taxpayer has no City Privilege License or has no permanent business location in the State.
- (c) The taxpayer has failed to timely pay any tax (or penalties and interest thereon) due to the City on three (3) or more occasions within the previous thirty-six (36) calendar months.
- (d) The taxpayer has remitted payment by check, which has been dishonored.
- (e) The taxpayer has failed to comply with a formal written request of the Tax Collector made pursuant to Regulation 555.1.

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## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

### **Date    Description of Change**

- 11/51 Imposed a fee ranging from \$25 to \$50 on traveling merchants, peddlers, photographers and itinerant vendors. Ordinance 5.
- 9/58 1/4 of 1% tax rate imposed on most activities. Ordinance 50.
- 9/60 Tax rate increased to 1/2% on most categories. The rate also increased to 3/4% on Retail sales of tangible personal property, amusements and rentals. Ordinance 89.
- 7/61 Increased the rate to 1% on amusements, rentals and alcohol consumed off premises. Ordinance 122.
- 6/66 Repealed Ordinance 122. Increased the tax rate on all activities to 1%. Major wording changes also occurred. Ordinance 300.
- 3/68 Amended sale definition, publishing, tangible personal property rentals and the exemption for hospitals. Ordinance 379.
- 4/68 Wording on rentals changed. Ordinance 389.
- 12/68 Provided a 50% exemption for transactions taxed by two or more cities. Nexus issues to avoid double taxation. Ordinance 427.
- 3/74 A 1% use tax was imposed. The changes also provided that a contractor who builds less than four units and has not offered the units for sale within two years of the first occupancy would not be taxable on the sale after two years. The builder would have to pay tax on materials and the subcontractors would be taxed. Ordinance 781.
- 2/76 Repealed the minimum tax. At the time, staff predicted a \$11,000 loss in annual revenue. \$7,000 of this loss would be offset by a better business license fee.
- 8/76 Repealed the city's exemption from privilege tax. The code originally did not tax sales to the city. Ordinance 970.
- 2/77 A change was made which provided a standard 35% deduction in lieu of actual labor and subcontractor cost deductions for contractors. This change also provided that if a person acquired a construction project by foreclosure he would become liable for the payment of tax. Ordinance 1361.
- 5/77 A two percent (2%) transient occupancy tax was adopted. Ordinance 1022. 50% of the money received is earmarked for tourist promotion.
- 7/80 The council considered repealing the tax on food for home consumption. The item was put on indefinite hold and has not come up again.
- 2/82 Relates to publishing and advertising revenue. Allowed the city to tax newspapers delivered in Scottsdale. Also allowed the city to apportion advertising based on sales of newspapers in Scottsdale. The fiscal impact of this change at that time was thought to be \$85,000 per year. Ordinance 1450.
- 7/82 Clarified use tax provisions. Ordinance 1501.

## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Change</u></b>
--------------------	-------------------------------------

- |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7/82  | Repealed the tax on transportation. Ordinance 1500.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2/83  | <u>Removal of Franchise Fee offset for cable television revenue.</u> Ordinance 1524.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10/83 | <u>Imposed a gross receipts tax.</u> Ordinance 1613.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10/83 | <u>Repealed the gross receipts tax.</u> Ordinance 1617.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6/84  | Provided an exemption for the sale of advertising by a non-profit organization. Ordinance 1646.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7/84  | Provided a method to refund tax to other taxing jurisdictions. Ordinance 1652.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11/84 | <u>Allowed factoring of sales tax.</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12/84 | Local advertising was more clearly defined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7/85  | The term speculative builder was added to the definition of owner builder. Prior to this change it was necessary to prove intent to sell. This new wording provided for a 24 month window in which any sale would be taxed as prime contracting. Ordinance 1744. |
| 9/85  | Owners of real property who lease to a corporation are not subject to tax if their holdings, in aggregate, in the lessee corporation amount to at least 80%. Ordinance 1975.                                                                                     |
| 4/87  | <u>Adopted the model city tax code</u> which provided broad changes to the previous code. Ordinance 1928.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4/87  | Revised the wording related to the taxation of fees imposed by limited access retailers. Ordinance 2007.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5/88  | Adopted several housekeeping changes and re-adopted the code with standard numbering. Ordinance 2013 and Resolution 3043.                                                                                                                                        |
| 1/89  | The transient occupancy tax was raised to 3%. Ordinance 2045. This change also increased the distribution for tourist promotion from 50% to 66%.                                                                                                                 |
| 3/89  | Provided an <u>exemption for a business donating inventory to a 501(C)(3) charitable organization.</u> Ordinance 2230.                                                                                                                                           |
| 7/89  | <u>Increased the application fee to \$12 from \$10 and imposed an annual renewal fee of \$50 or \$2 per residential unit.</u> Also changed the fee schedule for the business license. Ordinance 2243 and 2244.                                                   |
| 1/90  | <u>The privilege tax rate was increased to one and two-tenths percent (1.2%).</u> The additional tax, estimated to be \$5.1 million per year is designated for transportation improvements. Ordinance 2272.                                                      |
| 8/90  | Effective date of several changes. The housekeeping changes included a change to Section 445 clarifying the tax on commercial/residential property. Section 444 was added to address the activity of a Hotel. Section 550 was changed to allow us to extend      |

## Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax

### Date    Description of Change

the audit period for underreported use tax. Section 570 was changed to remove the reference to the rules of evidence.

The substantive changes added definitions for substantially complete and amended the definition for speculative builder. The delinquency date in Section 530 was revised to be less punitive on late filings. Section 415 and 416 were revised by changing the 24 month provision for most non commercial speculative builders. Sales of most residential real property and commercial and residential lots are now taxable regardless of when they are sold (if the residence in question would fall into the owner builder who is not a speculative builder under the prior code; and, the 24 month period has expired prior to 8/1/90 the activity should be taxed under the prior code. If the 24 month period expires after 8/1/90 the activity should be taxed under the new code provisions. Ordinance 2291

9/90 Intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Revenue was adopted to share tax information. Resolution 3347

10/91 Changed the privilege tax on sales and use of jet fuel from 1.2% of gross sales to a \$.018 cents per gallon charge. The change was made in order to help the airline industry during times of rapid price increases and is consistent with the tax imposed by the State of Arizona. The rate was intended to be revenue neutral. The effective date of this change is 12/1/91. Ordinance 2389.

8/92 A \$50 cap was placed on the annual license fee paid by taxpayers engaged in the business of residential rentals. The \$2 per unit fee is still applicable but if the taxpayer has more than 25 units the annual license fee would be limited to \$50.

7/93 Imposed a 1.2% tax on wastewater removal services. Effects city water customers; the wastewater tax will appear on water bills. Residential customers should see an average \$.12 increase while commercial accounts will average \$.81. Ordinance 2561.

2/95 Various technical and administrative changes were made. Most became effective 2/1/95 with the exception being the changes related to income producing capital equipment which will become effective 7/1/95.

The income producing capital equipment change conforms the model code to mirror the state code in most areas. It was estimated that this change would result in a loss of \$50,000 a year.

The other significant changes are:

- The exclusion of the value of an apartment provided to an employee of an apartment complex.
- Refundable deposits are now taxed when they are forfeited.
- The licensing for use of real property was clarified; this will allow cities to tax licensing agreements such as vending commissions.



## Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax

### Date    Description of Change

- The sale of paper products to retailers and restaurants now is considered a non-taxable sale for resale. The paper products are considered to be included in the purchase price and transferred as part of the sale.
- Instruction was removed from the amusement classification.
- The code now provides a vehicle for cities to pass through lien processing and recording fees to taxpayers.
- The term equivalent excise tax was broadened to include taxes paid to a native American government.
- There were also several changes effecting manufactured buildings.
- Mining was separated from the timbering classification. The state legislature capped the tax rate for the mining classification at 0.1%.

Ordinance 2728

- 7/95    The privilege tax rate was increased to one and four-tenths percent (1.4%) and the use tax rate was increased to one and two-tenths percent (1.2%). The additional .2% tax, estimated to generate \$8.0 million per year is restricted for the acquisition of land in the McDowell Mountain Sonoran Preserve.

Ordinance 2789.

- 7/96    State Legislature pre-empted city from imposing tax on:
- The sale of motor vehicles to nonresidents when the vehicles are delivered to a location outside of the state.
  - Dealer documentation fees
  - Assigned dealer rebates
  - Interest on finance charges
  - Warranty and service contracts

Ordinance 2967.

- 1/97    Various technical and administrative changes were made including the addition of a taxpayer bill of rights. The following items represent clarification changes which became effective January 1, 1997:
- The term “prosthetic device” was amended to include glucose test strips and durable medical equipment for use in the home (Code Section 100)
  - The following taxes were excluded from income if separately itemized and remitted to the proper authorities: 911 tax on devices for the deaf, federal excise tax on communication services, car rental surcharge tax, federal

## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Change</u></b>
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	excise luxury tax on motor vehicles, waste tire disposal fees, lead acid battery disposal fees and used oil disposal fees (Code Section 260)
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The recordkeeping requirements for Electronic Records as prescribed by the Arizona Department of Revenue became acceptable to the city (Code Section 350)</li><li>• The allocation of tax on retail sales which are drop-shipped was eliminated. Such sales became taxable at the sales office location only (Code Sections 460 and 567)</li><li>• The sale of natural gas and liquefied petroleum for use in motor vehicles became exempt (Code Sections 465 and 480)</li><li>• Food products sold by producers became exempt (i.e. farmers market) (Code Section 465)</li><li>• Contributions in aid of construction became exempt from the utility service tax (Code Section 480)</li></ul> |
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The remaining changes added a taxpayer bill of rights to the tax code and became effective January 1, 1997:

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Created a taxpayer resolution officer who serves as a liaison and troubleshooter helping taxpayers get information on city procedures, respond to complaints and make recommendations to the city manager. The officer also has the authority to suspend the tax collector's actions in hardship cases (Code Sections 515 and 516)</li><li>• Allowed the taxpayer to go completely through the appeal process before paying disputed tax amounts (Code Section 575)</li><li>• Interest charges were changed to a daily basis (Code Section 540)</li><li>• Exempted taxpayers from paying late penalties if they could show they had a "reasonable basis" for believing the tax did not apply to their business (Code Section 540)</li><li>• Allowed back taxes to be paid in installments (Code Section 596)</li><li>• Granted refunds on mistakenly collected taxes, although the taxpayer must identify which customers the tax was collected from and pass the refund along to them (Code Section 560)</li><li>• Allowed taxpayers who are successful in their appeals to recover fees and costs incurred up to \$20,000 (Code Section 578)</li><li>• Prohibited an auditor's evaluation to be based on the tax assessments created for the city. Also provided the taxpayer an opportunity to rate the performance of the auditor (517)</li></ul> |
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## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

### **Date    Description of Change**

- Provided procedures for closing agreements in cases of extensive taxpayer misunderstanding or misapplication (546)  
Ordinance 2967.
- 1/98 Amended the tax code to exempt remediation contracting activities related to groundwater. This exemption is intended to encourage environmental clean-up efforts and provides additional consistency with state law. Each Arizona city and town will adopt similar wording. This exemption is retroactive to April 1, 1987.  
Ordinance 3091
- 7/98 The 1998 amendments to the tax code represent an attempt by all cities and towns to develop more consistency with state law in areas which do not significantly affect tax revenues. Many of the changes result from state legislation which passed during the 1997 session.
  - Publicly funded libraries would no longer be taxed on the purchase of printed or photographic materials and electronic or digital media materials;
  - Conforms Model City Tax Code with State Statute by providing definitions for “cleanrooms”, “sound stage machinery and equipment” and “tangible personal property for telecommunications of direct broadcast satellite television” under the definition of income-producing capital equipment which is exempt from taxation. Cleanroom wording is retroactive to April 1, 1987.
  - A 501(c)(3) entity which provides training, job placement or rehabilitation programs for handicapped persons would no longer be taxed on the rental or leasing of tangible personal property.
  - A commercial airline would no longer be taxed on the purchase of food served to its passengers without a charge;
  - The sale of cellular phones furnished or held as an inducement to enter into or continue a contract for telecommunications services would not be taxed;
  - Food sold to a school by a retailer or a restaurant, for consumption on school premises during school hours, would not be taxed;
  - Personal hygiene items sold to or purchased by a hotel, which are transferred to a guest, would no longer be taxed;
  - Food sold to a correctional institution would no longer be taxed; and
  - The definition of “qualifying hospital”, “qualifying community health center” and “qualifying health care organization” are added while the term “primary health care facility” is removed. These changes will align exemptions granted to health care facilities with that of State Statute.

## Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licensing for use of real property was clarified by adding the terms “to the final licensee” which eliminates the pyramiding of tax on licensing transactions.</li><li>• The wording which exempts motor carriers from privilege tax was expanded to include lightweight motor vehicles. The reference to the applicable state statute was also updated.</li></ul> |
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### Ordinance 3140

1/2000 The 1999 amendments to the tax code represent an attempt by all cities and towns to develop more consistency with state law in areas which do not significantly affect tax revenues. Many of the changes result from state legislation, which passed during the 1998 session. Some of the specific changes are:

- Exempts the sale or purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. **(This change would be retroactive to May 5, 1999.)**
- Clarifies that the sale of a telephone calling card is taxable under the retail classification and exempt from tax under the telecommunications classification.
- Exempts the sale of food to a non-profit charitable organization that has qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that regularly serves meals to the needy and indigent on a continuing basis at no cost.
- Eliminates the need to enter into an agency agreement with a construction contractor to avoid paying privilege tax on tangible personal property included in a construction contract that would otherwise be exempt if purchased by the specified entity. The change impacts purchases made by hospitals and various income producing capital equipment purchases. **(This change would be retroactive to January 1, 1999.)**
- Replaces the term “Indian” with “Native American”.
- Added a deduction for gross receipts derived from incarcerating or detaining inmates. The cities are required to make this change.
- Places the burden of proof, when determining a factual issue relevant to the taxpayer's tax liability, on the city.

Additional changes grant tax exemptions to encourage environmental remediation and pollution control activities and promote the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. Additionally, favorable tax treatment is provided to non-profit hospitals and manufacturing companies to encourage additional capital equipment investments, which can result in greater operating efficiencies and the latest available medical technology. These changes become effective January 2000 unless otherwise noted.

### Ordinance 3260

## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

### **Date   Description of Change**

7/2001 The 2001 amendments to the tax code represent an attempt by all cities and towns to develop more consistency with state law in areas which do not significantly affect tax revenues. Some of the specific changes are:

- Conforms Model City Tax Code with State Statute for alternative fuel vehicle exemptions.
- Established a Municipal Hearing Office.
- Provided for multijurisdictional audits for Transaction Privilege Tax

Ordinance 3385

1/2002 The 2002 amendments to the tax code represent a continued attempt by all cities and towns to develop more consistency with state law which do not significantly affect tax revenues. Some of the specific changes are:

- Establishes a calendar year billing period for the transaction privilege tax annual licensing fee. Effective May 28, 2002.
- Clarified the taxation of residential care facilities.
- Clarified the language regarding deductions and exemptions for the three different construction contracting classifications.
- Codified the practice of not taxing post-construction pest control and termite treatments.
- Conforms the Model City Tax Code to the State statute on the pre-emption of taxation of internet access charges.

Ordinance 3417

1/2004 The 2003 amendments to the tax code represent a continued attempt by all cities and towns to develop more consistency with state law which do not significantly affect tax revenues. Some of the specific changes are:

- Clarified the definitions of qualifying community health center, qualifying health care organization and qualifying hospital.
- Conforms the Model City Tax Code to the State statute on certain excludable fees.
- Codified “grand fathering” the tax rate for construction contracting when a tax rate change occurs.
- Codified the validity of electronic signatures.

Ordinance 3539

## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

### **Date   Description of Change**

6/2004 The transient occupancy tax distribution for tourist promotion was changed from 66% to 80%.

Ordinance 3576.

7/2004 The privilege tax rate was increased to one and six and one-half tenths percent (1.65%) and the use tax rate was increased to one and four and one-half tenths percent (1.45%). An additional 0.15% tax is to be used solely for the general purposes of acquiring land and interests in land, and constructing improvements thereto, for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and paying related financing costs and fees in connection therewith. An additional 0.10% tax is to be used solely for public safety services and capital needs.

Ordinance 3569.

6/2006 Amended tax code Sections 540, 542, 560 and Reg. 250.1 based on State law as enacted by the 2005 Legislature. The changes are retroactive to October 1, 2005. Some of the specific changes are:

- Interest rate is to be the same as the State's rate, which is based on the prime rate, plus percentage adjustments and coincides with Internal Revenue Service interest rate on underpayments. The rate can change quarterly.
- Eliminates requirement under Code subsection 542(d) to remit any tax collected from customers as a condition of a refund due to a change in interpretation or application of the Code.
- Eliminates former Code subsection 560(c), which required taxpayers to remit any refunded tax that was originally collected by separate itemization back to the customers that actually paid the tax as a condition of the refund.
- Clarifies refund procedures, including minimum requirement for claiming a refund, and time limitation for the Tax Collector and taxpayer.
- Amends Code Regulation 250.1 to clarify the definition of "Excess Tax Collected" to conform with language in A.R.S. 42-6009.

Ordinance 3682.

6/2006 Amended tax code Section 445 to exempt income on low-income rental units established under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. The change is effective July 20, 2006 and retroactively applied to July 1, 2006. The specific requirements are:

- The housing is restricted to tenants based on a maximum tenant income, and
- a maximum rent than can be paid by the tenant has been established under federal law or regulations, and
- the federal law or regulations do not provide for collection of rental tax from the tenant over and above the maximum rent, and
- the amount actually collected from the tenant is at the maximum rent level.

All rental income from the units meeting the above four qualifications is exempt, including any related subsidy or income tax credit. Gross income from other units, even at the same complex or project, is taxable.

## **Changes to the Scottsdale Revised Code Related to Privilege Tax**

### **Date   Description of Change**

Ordinance 3683.

11/2006 Amended tax code Sections 415, 416, 417 based on State law as enacted by the 2006 Legislature. The changes are retroactive to September 1, 2006 and exempt development/impact fees from privilege tax.

Amended tax code Section 410 based on State law as enacted by the 2006 Legislature. The change is retroactive to July 1, 1999 and exempts from privilege tax the portion of the State Fair amusement ride tickets that are retained by the State Fair Board. The exemption for the State Fair amusement ride ticket sales will not impact the City of Scottsdale since the State Fair is located in the City of Phoenix.

Amended Section 415 based on State law as enacted by the 2006 Legislature. The change allows exemption of gross received from a contract for construction any lake facility development in a commercial enhancement reuse district. The exemption for the lake facility development pertains to the Tempe Town Lake. As of the date of the adoption of this Code change, the City of Scottsdale does not have such a development and is therefore not impacted by this change.

Amended Sections 100, 410, 444, 447, 470, 475, Regulation 310.3 and repealing of Regulation 447.1. The changes are effective January 1, 2007 and were made to clarify tax treatment of hotel income and generally match the State's tax imposition on hotels based on a ruling (TPR 06-1) recently issued by the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Amended Sections 266, 450, 455, 465, and 660. The changes are effective January 1, 2007 and were technical changes to the Code to correct State statutory references that have changed or to eliminate references to statutes that no longer exist and correct inconsistent structure with the Model City Tax Code.

Ordinance 3692.

4/2008 Amended Sections 100, 415, 416 and 465. The changes exempt income attributed to installation and sale of solar energy devices to match State statute language.

Amended Sections 415, 416 and 417. The changes exempt income attributed to direct costs of architectural and engineering services to match State statute language.

Amended Section 100. The change removes the requirement of being a non-resident from the definition of out-of-state sale. The change does not affect the requirements for an out-of-state sale of motor vehicles.

Ordinance 3780.

4/2008 Adopted an updated intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Revenue to reflect multijurisdictional auditing and tax information sharing.

Resolution 7540.